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REVIEWS

Piozziana; or, Recollections of the late Mrs. Piozzi. With Remarks by a Friend. London: Moxon.

This is a lively little book, and cannot fail to be sought after and read with pleasure by all the admirers of Boswell's Johnson, and the Memoirs and Anecdotes of Dr. Burney. It consists of letters and observations concerning men and books of the days of Burke and Johnson, as well as those of Byron and Scott, and contains much about those eminent men, and others scarcely less distinguished, which the world will be thankful to know; nor is this all: whenever the lady has written a letter, or made some remark, sarcastic or serious, the gentleman, her friend, gives us an explanatory dissertation, often much to the purpose, and always in a kindly spirit, if not a discerning one. This renders the work a great curiosity in its way; we only wish that the editor, or author, or whatever he is, had known the lively and sarcastic relict of the great English brewer and the Italian fiddler earlier in life, that he might have made a more extensive collection of her clever letters and smart sayings.

Mrs. Piozzi is known to the world by the partiality of Dr. Johnson; by her own entertaining anecdotes of the great philosopher; her Tour in Italy; the inimitable biography of Boswell, and by her suddenly throwing aside the weeds which she wore as the relict of Thrale, and giving her hand to Piozzi, an Italian musician, who was instructing her daughters. All these circumstances united in rendering her name a name of note. But she had merit all her own. She was lively, witty, and handsome; wrote agreeable verses—satires too, upon occasion; had a singular knack of paying compliments; could be, and was, ironical and sarcastic on those who displeased her; invited to her house all who were distinguished in her day for science or genius; and while she sat at the head of her first husband's table, was seldom without the presence of such men as Burke, Johnson, Reynolds, Goldsmith, Boswell, and Burney, among whom she divided the good things of this life with a readiness of hand and a grace which showed she thought the task a pleasant one. It was generally suspected too, that the displeasure of Johnson at her second marriage originated in something like disappointment; he had perhaps expected to be consulted, nor has this surmise been at all discountenanced by the lady herself: but it is neither for their fame nor their philosophy that rosy young widows make the second choice among the sons of men; and Johnson, who knew the world well, could not be ignorant of this. We have sometimes been inclined to set down Boswell's visible dislike of the lady, after she became Mrs. Piozzi, to her discontinuing those frequent and welcome invitations to venison and wine, to which neither Johnson

nor Boswell were insensible. But we shall detain our readers no longer, and proceed at once to spread before them some of the choice things of the book.

The first person we are introduced to, is Mr. Gifford, the satirist and critic: her conduct on meeting with him, shows how well she could command a temper which she acknowledged was touchy:—

"She, one evening, asked me abruptly if I did not remember the scurrilous lines in which she had been depicted by Gifford in his 'Baviad and Mæviad.' And, not waiting for my answer, for I was indeed too much embarrassed to give one quickly, she recited the verses in question, and added, 'how do you think "Thrale's gray widow" revenged herself? I contrived to get myself invited to meet him at supper at a friend's house, (I think she said in Pall Mall), soon after the publication of his poem, sat opposite to him, saw that he was "perplexed in the extreme;" and smiling, proposed a glass of wine as a libation to our future good fellowship. Gifford was sufficiently a man of the world to understand me, and nothing could be more courteous and entertaining than he was while we remained together.' This, it must be allowed, was a fine trait of character, evincing thorough knowledge of life, and a very powerful mind."

She loved to look back, in her old age, to the days when she lived at Streatham, and enjoyed the company of the wise and the witty:—

"Sometimes, when she favoured me and mine with a visit, she used to look at her little self, as she called it, and speak drolly of what she once was, as if talking of some one else; and one day, turning to me, I remember her saying, 'no, I never was handsome; I had always too many strong points in my face for beauty.' I ventured to express a doubt of this, and said that Doctor Johnson was certainly an admirer of her personal charms. She replied that she believed his devotion was at least as warm towards the table and the table-talk at Streatham. This was, as is well known, Mrs. Thrale's place of residence in the country. I was tempted to observe that I thought, as I still do, that Johnson's anger on the event of her second marriage was excited by some feeling of disappointment; and that I suspected he had formed hopes of attaching her to himself. It would be disingenuous on my part to attempt to repeat her answer: I forget it; but the impression on my mind is that she did not contradict me."

In one of her conversations, she said, that when Lady Howe cut down Pope's Willow, fourscore years after the poet planted it, the common people cried Shame! and struggled for chips and twigs: she had a tea-chest made out of it. She made a pause, and then began to speak of Johnson, of whom she related the following story, which shows that she had a touch of the vixen, rather than that the Doctor was deficient in moral propriety:—

"Johnson was, on the whole, a rigid moralist; but he could be ductile, I may say, servile; and I will give you an instance. We had a large dinner-party at our house; Johnson sat on one

side of me, and Burke on the other; and in the company there was a young female (Mrs. Piozzi named her), to whom I, in my peevishness, thought Mr. Thrale superfluously attentive, to the neglect of me and others; especially of myself, then near my confinement, and dismally low-spirited; notwithstanding which, Mr. T. very unceremoniously begged of me to change place with Sophy —, who was threatened with a sore-throat, and might be injured by sitting near the door. I had scarcely swallowed a spoonful of soup when this occurred, and was so overset by the coarseness of the proposal, that I burst into tears, said something petulant—that perhaps ere long, the lady might be at the head of Mr. T.'s table, without displacing the mistress of the house, &c., and so left the apartment. I retired to the drawing-room, and for an hour or two contended with my vexation, as I best could, when Johnson and Burke came up. On seeing them, I resolved to give a jobation to both, but fixed on Johnson for my charge, and asked him if he had noticed what passed, what I had suffered, and whether, allowing for the state of my nerves, I was much to blame? He answered, 'Why, possibly not; your feelings were outraged.' I said, 'Yes, greatly so; and I cannot help remarking with what blandness and composure you witnessed the outrage. Had this transaction been told of others, your anger would have known no bounds; but, towards a man who gives good dinners, &c. you were meekness itself!' Johnson coloured, and Burke, I thought, looked foolish; but I had not a word of answer from either."

We have some suspicion that the story of Henry of Richmond, and the sword with which he fought at Bosworth, is apocryphal: can any of our antiquarian friends throw light upon it?—

"King Henry VII. when Earl of Richmond, and on his way to fight Richard the Third at Bosworth, stopped for a day at Mostyn-hall; and on leaving, told Lady Mostyn that, should he be victorious, as he hoped to be, he would, when the battle was over, send her his sword by a special messenger, whom he should despatch from the field. He won the day, and sent the sword, as he promised; and for ages it hung in the armoury at Mostyn. But a good old lady of the family at length observing that the hilt was of pure gold, and exclaiming that it was a pity metal of such value should lie useless, had the handle melted down, and converted into a caudle-cup. The blade was lost."

Our friends of the north will be glad to hear that Johnson's dislike of the Scotch was assumed, not serious—if his serious cuts and thrusts would have been sharper than his feints, the Scotch are as well without them:—

"She greatly admired, she said, the Scottish people, admitting that I was right in observing, as I did to compliment her, that Boswell was an obtuse man, and did not understand Johnson, when he represents him as malevolently disposed towards Scotland; while, in fact, his sarcastic mode of speaking of that nation, was only his way of being facetious. This led her to remark that she knew the famous John Wilkes well, and had often enjoyed his fine 'conversation talents.' She recalled the droll retort of Wilkes, when he one day overheard Johnson enlarging on the subject of human freedom, and

eried out, 'What is the man saying? *Liberty* sounds as oddly in *his* mouth, as *Religion* would in *mine*.'

"Reverting to *Mackenzie*, she said she did not, any more than Doctor *Johnson*, think highly of his 'Man of the World;' and that *Johnson*, whose name she frequently introduced, was the reverse of illiberal with regard to Scotland, or Scottish genius; for that he perpetually took opportunities of applauding both; and was one time speaking most praisingly of *Thomson*, when a Scotch gentleman came in; on which *Johnson* immediately desisted; and said afterwards, that he 'could not endure to hear one *Scot* magnify another, which he knew would be the case.'

Mrs. Piozzi occasionally says a word or two in her letters of such new books as engaged the attention of the Coterie, of which she was a talking and corresponding member. In the following passage, she discusses *Godwin*, and dismisses *Scott* in a few words:

"*Godwin*'s new romance pleases nobody: though I like the story of a man, who, early crossed in love, lives quite alone, treating his servants as mere automata, and only desiring to remain undisturbed: till—the fall of some planks discovers to him that an attorney, and his nephew, were settled in quiet possession of his spacious mansion, and ample domain; and that his domestics were at the command of those men, assisting to keep him up as a confirmed lunatic. * * *

"The ladies are all reading *Rob Roy*, long waited for, and, in my mind, good for little. 'Frankenstein' is a filthy thing; and 'Mandeville' a dull one: they have their admirers, however."

What follows is far better, and very pleasingly told:—

"There is a new book come out since I wrote last; or did I mention it to you before? *Frankenstein*. His female readers are divided strangely; one girl told me she was so affected reading it alone, that she started up, and rang the bell from the agitation of spirits. Another lady said, 'Lord bless me, what alarmed her, I wonder! it is a *rhodomontading* story; I slept over it.' But it is, as you observe, according to the frame one's mind is in. A petty shopkeeper in Westminster once related to me, how she went with many others to see the great Duchess of Northumberland's funeral; it took place at night, for the purpose of increasing the solemnity; and she was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel. When at last one lamp alone was left burning on the tomb in that immense pile of gothic architecture, and the crowd was pushing to get out, Mrs. Gardner (that was her name) lost her shoe; and endeavouring to regain it, lost, as it were, the tide of company; and heard the great Abbey-doors close on her, with a sound that reverberated through all the aisles, precluding every possibility of making her case known to those without. 'Dear, dear! and what did you think, Mrs. Gardner, and what did you do?' 'Why, to be sure, Ma'am, I thought I should catch a shocking cold; so I wrapt two handkerchiefs round my head and throat; and crept into a seat in the choir, as they call it, where I fell fast asleep; not without a good deal of uneasiness, lest the 'prentice boy—since my poor husband's death—should lie a-bed in the morning, and shop should be neglected; till those sexton fellows, or whatever you call them, should let me get home to breakfast.' If ever I told you this 'round, unvarnished tale' before, the ladies will recollect it; but I think it is not among my *potted stories*."

From authors, it is but a step to actors and actresses: respecting Miss O'Neill, she writes as follows:—

"Miss O'Neill has fascinated all eyes; no

wonder: she is *very* fair, very young, and innocent-looking; of gentlest manners in appearance certainly; and lady-like to an exactness of imitation. The voice and emphasis are not delightful to my old-fashioned ears: but all must feel that her action is quite appropriate. Where passionate love and melting tenderness are to be expressed, she carries criticism quite away. The scene with *Stukely* disappointed me: I hated to see indignation degenerate into shrewishness, and hear so lovely a creature scold the man in a harsh accent—such as *you now* are hearing in the street! My aristocratic prejudices, too, led me to think she under-dressed her characters; one is used to fancy an audience entitled to respect from all public performers; and *Belvidera*'s plain black gown, and her fine hair twisted up, as the girls do for what they call an *old cal's* card party, pleased me not. While—the men admired even to ecstasy, as perfectly natural, that which I believe delighted them chiefly—as it was frequent and fashionable."

That the spirit of Scotland was strong in Helen Maria Williams, may be seen by a single anecdote:—

"Did I ever tell you of a Count Andriani, who dined with Mr. Piozzi and me once in Hanover Square? Helen Maria Williams met him, and whispered me, before dinner, how handsome she thought him. He was very showy-looking; and had made a long tour about our British dominions. While the dessert was upon the table, I asked him which was finest—Loch Lomond or the Lake of Killarney? 'Oh, no comparison,' was his reply; 'the Irish lake is a body of water worth looking at, even by those who, like you and I, have lived on the banks of *Lago Maggiore*, that much resembles, and little surpasses it; the Highland beauty is a *cold beauty*, truly.' Helen's Scotch blood and national prejudice boiled over in the course of this conversation; and when the ladies retired to the drawing-room after dinner, 'I was mistaken in that man's features,' said she; 'he is not handsome at all, when one looks more at him.' Comical enough, was it not?"

There is much good sense and discernment in her letter regarding the pleasant vale of Llwydd:—

"We are spoiling the sublimity of this vale of Llwydd; cultivating the fine heathy hills, lately so brown and solemn, like dressing old, black-robed judges up, in green coats and white waistcoats. Sir John S. has done better, and planted his mountains to a large extent, eighty acres, with fine forest timber. Many friends think it a folly; but he says, and I say, that in forty years, the wood will be worth as much as the estate below. And what signifies tearing men and horses to pieces, to cultivate and manure these upper regions, which will be more profitable when more in character. The *folly* was in forgetting to sow turnips among the plantations, which they help to keep clean; and and pay labourers besides. Never was seen such a harvest; all our wheat will be in by to-morrow night, and oats ready to cut on Monday morning. But—while corn is ripening, the people are *repining*; a spirit of discontent pervades every part of Europe, I believe. The labourers' wages at the Cross are twenty-one shillings this day, for the week; and when my father lived at old *Bachygraig*,—the date of which is cut in the weather-vane, 1537; the house which Mr. Beloe, God forgive him, has said that dear Mr. Piozzi pulled down,—they were only five shillings; yet in those days, I mean in 1740, or then about, all were well pleased and happy, with their oat-bread and butter-milk; nor dreamed of wearing shoes, and eating roast meat, except at Christmas and Easter. Those who can unriddle this enigma, are better financiers and deeper politicians than I am. Besides that,

these fine guinea o'week labourers will be treated with good bacon dinners every day. My father's hinds as we called them, fed themselves out of their five shillings, and were happy, and their cottages clean, and the renters willing to keep a pointer for the squire besides. What a letter is this! exclaims dear Mrs. — from our H. L. P.! But *Solomon* says little can be expected from those '*whose talk is of bullocks*;' and I like to enter into the detail of this, my first and last place, well enough. Adieu, dear friends; for a short time, thank God! I wonder where at Bath you will fix your residence?"

At page 128, we are told that Allan Ramsay's lyrics were not written by the author of the 'Gentle Shepherd,' but by some young men of talent, who frequented a tavern kept by a person of the same name as the Scottish Theocritus. We suspect that none of our antiquarian friends in the north ever heard of this. Mrs. Piozzi remarked too, says her friend, that for her part she had a suspicion that the 'Gentle Shepherd' itself, was written by a person of the name of Thomson! This person of the name of Thomson is the author of the 'Seasons,' and we have no doubt that the facetious lady was *trotting*, as it is called, her reverend friend; we hope he has related no other of her experimental stories. We shall now allow the reverend editor to speak for himself: the three following portraits are not done in the usual style, and we like them all the better for it: we consider them clever and characteristic:—

Burke.—"At the time I refer to, and when pointed out to strangers in the streets, as a renowned orator, statesman, and writer, he usually wore a blue coat, scarlet waistcoat, brown breeches, and grey worsted stockings; and a wig of fair, curly hair, made to look natural. He also commonly used spectacles; so that it is not easy to describe his face. But I noticed that he had many wrinkles, and those more of thought than age. He had a double chin, as it is termed; large nostrils, a rather long, irregular nose, and a wide, and as it were, a loose mouth, such as many public speakers have. His speeches were always worth listening to; though his attitude was often unbecoming, as he would keep one hand in his waistcoat pocket, and the other frequently in his bosom, and swing his body from side to side, while his feet were fixed to one spot. Being an Irishman, he not only spoke with an Irish accent, which might be excused, but with an Irish pronunciation, for which there is no excuse; because English people of good education must needs know how to pronounce their own language; and when an Irishman of discernment and talents speaks differently, it must be because he chooses to do so, which is ridiculous. In spite of these objections, such were the charms of his eloquence, his words flowed in so grand a torrent, and he so abounded in happy metaphor and well-applied learning, that although I have heard him for several hours together, I do not remember being conscious of weariness or impatience, while he was on his legs."

Pitt.—"Pitt was a tall thin man, of a fair skin, and with rather an effeminate gait. He had light-coloured hair, and grey, watery eyes, and a projecting sharp-pointed nose, a little turned up. His forehead, in the part nearest to his eyebrows, came far out, as may be seen in his statues and busts; and to those who are observers of human faces, gave the notion of his being a man of the greatest possible clearness of thought, and firmness of character; and such he proved himself on every occasion. His manner of speaking in the House (and I seldom heard him except in parliament) was very lordly and commanding; he generally stretched forth

his right arm to its utmost length, kept his left hand on his hip, or on the table, near which he usually stood, and his feet at a proper distance from each other, and spoke deliberately, like a person reading from a well-written book, and in a voice as loud and deep almost as a bell."

Sheridan.—"Sheridan was above the middle height: his limbs were well formed, but rather heavy, and his shoulders somewhat round; he had one leg perceptibly larger than the other. His face, in the lower part, was fat, and all over too rosy for a very temperate or very discreet man. His eyes were most remarkable—large, of a dark colour, and shining, as if fire came from them; when near and immediately in front of him, few could bear to look steadily at his countenance. In pronouncing his orations, he had endless grace and variety of action; using both arms with such propriety, that by their movements one might nearly conjecture what he was saying. His voice had in it almost every sort of musical sound; it was sometimes as sweet as the notes of a violin, and at others as mellow as an organ. He was so great a master of original wit, rhetoric without rules, and natural eloquence of every kind, that he made those who heard him speak, believe him in the right for the time, be the subject of his oration what it might. He was, in short, neither moral, learned, nor wise; but so amazingly clever that he completely imposed himself as such, upon his hearers, while declaiming either on the hustings or in parliament."

We have quoted largely, because this is the first notice the public will have of the contents of a work, which, with many faults, has great merit, and cannot be regarded otherwise than as a valuable addition to the stock of national materials, out of which the lives and characters of illustrious men of Britain will be drawn by some future biographer. We may be tempted to return to it for a few more anecdotes.

[LARDNER'S CABINET CYCLOPEDIA, No. 40.

Lives of the British Admirals, with an Introductory View of the Naval History of England. By Robert Southey, Esq. Vol. I. Longman & Co.

FROM any experienced hand, this very useful work would have been welcome; but it is doubly so coming from one every way so competent and skilful as the author of the inimitable *Life of Nelson*. Our naval history is that of our rise as a nation: to our hardihood on the waters we owe our chief glory; and we may truly say with one of our poets—

Our march is o'er the mountain wave,
Our home is on the deep.

Cæsar found us acquainted with navigation; Alfred the Great built a fleet and gained our first naval victory; Edward the Third asserted, in the battle of Sluis, the military rather than the naval superiority of England: the defeat of the dreaded Armada gave the sea captains of our country that daring confidence which they have since so well maintained: Charles the First, and likewise his sons, introduced science in the construction of our ships; and the great commanders of the days of George the Third, made England mistress of the ocean. The image of this singular, and though moving, really stable empire, seems to have been present to the savage imaginations of the roving Northern or Sea-kings: we find it repeatedly alluded to in old ballads; and the gallant adventurer Ward is made to vaunt, that other men reign on land, but he reigns king on sea. To trace

naval architecture from a hollow log to a line-of-battle ship; and naval history from a predatory excursion in a wicker boat covered with hides for the purpose of stealing cows or robbing a church, to an expedition, in which, as at Trafalgar, the empire of the sea was decided, is the task which Mr. Southey has imposed on his genius; and as far as he has sailed down the stream of time, he has acquitted himself worthily.

It is his object in the first two volumes to give the general history of our navy; this will bring him down to the days of Elizabeth, when great maritime warriors, such as Howard, Drake, Raleigh, and others, made their appearance; the work will then assume the form of biography, and the general history will be continued in a series of memoirs, reaching from the days of Henry VII. to those of William IV. This will make a work, showing more individuality of character than anything in the stately historical form: it will afford the author an opportunity of manifesting his skill in delineating the characters and searching into the motives of men; and moreover, it will enable him to pour out with greater freedom his simple, flowing, unaffected, racy and vigorous English. In truth, the era of our naval greatness lies neither in the times of Queen Elizabeth nor King Charles; to find it, we must go farther back, and search as well among the records of our merchants as those of our princes: our strength at sea grew with our commerce, and for many centuries the defence of the island was intrusted as much to hired merchantmen, as to the regular navy of the Crown. We cannot at present make any extracts from this interesting volume: we recommend it to our readers as every way worthy, for research and genius, of the name on its title-page.

Rapport Officiel sur les Opérations de Guerre contre les Montagnards Musulmans du Caucase.—Russian Official Account of the late War against (the false Prophet of H'mry) and the Moslem Mountaineers of the Caucasus.

THE wild and mountainous districts that lie between the chain of Mount Caucasus and the Caspian Sea, have been but imperfectly subdued by the various conquerors that have swept over western and central Asia; though now nominally subject to Russia, the tenure of their obedience is very uncertain, and when that overgrown empire crumbles under its own weight, as assuredly it will, the foremost in raising the standard of independence, will be the hardy mountaineers of that country. The very curious document from which we are about to lay some extracts before our readers, contains the Russian account of a war between the Czar and a pretended prophet, who had sufficient influence to gather the wild tribes of Daughistan and the adjacent districts round the standard of insurrection. The war began in 1828, and terminated last October; but, until the notice of this report in the last number of the Asiatic Journal of Paris, we doubt if the existence of the war was known to ten persons in western Europe. There are too many important considerations connected both with the permanence of Mohammed's religion and Russia's dominion, suggested by its perusal, for us to pass it over casually; we shall, therefore, give an outline

of its contents, merely reminding our readers, that all our information is derived from the Russian accounts, and that many circumstances would, in all probability, have been differently represented "if the lion had painted." The origin of the war is thus stated:

"During five years the unconquerable mountain tribes of the Caucasus have often raised insurrection against our (the Russian) government. The author of these troubles was Sháh Kazi Molláh, a native of the village of H'mry, in the district of Kaïsóbúl, and in the province of Shamkhal. Though of obscure birth, he displayed an ambitious character, and a spirit at once crafty and daring; he believed that he could raise himself to the throne of Daughistan. He appeared among his countrymen as a prophet, sent from on high to re-establish in this country the spiritual tribunal known by the name *Ka-riyat*."

This tribunal, which signifies simply the tribunal of fixed laws, the Russians refused to permit, and in the beginning of 1830, Kazi Molláh, with 6000 followers, whom he called *Mourids*, or disciples, began to attack all the neighbouring villages and communities that refused to acknowledge his divine mission. His partisans were, however, defeated, and he was forced to seek a temporary refuge among the unsubdued tribes north of the Caucasus, between the rivers Martan and Aksai. Here he succeeded in obtaining numerous followers, and maintained a fierce guerrilla war against the towns and villages which remained faithful to Russia. According to the report, all these predatory expeditions were repulsed; yet, in the spring of 1831, we find Sháh Kazi Molláh, not only with an army in the north of Daughistan, but actually besieging the fort of Bournáia, in the vicinity of Tarki. Neither can we give implicit credit to the great victories said to have been gained on the 8th of June, and the 5th of July; for, on the 11th of September, he is stated to have appeared before the walls of Derbend. On this occasion, he ventured too far from his resources, and was enclosed between two Russian armies, but he extricated himself with great ability; and, though twice defeated, regained his original position at H'mry, and fortified himself in its rocky defiles. Into these dangerous ravines no Russian had ever penetrated; they were generally regarded as impregnable, and might easily have been made so. But, in the spring of 1832, the incursions of Kazi Molláh were renewed with fresh violence, the flame of revolt began to spread rapidly through all the Caucasian provinces, and the Russian government resolved to use the most strenuous exertions to check the insurrection. The conduct of these operations was intrusted to General Rosen, who acted with equal skill and promptitude. He ordered the several tribes to be attacked simultaneously by different detachments, which were afterwards to re-unite and fall on the centre of the rebellion. The tribe of the Tchetchentzes made a fierce resistance, especially at their chief village, Gerbentchik; we quote an instance of the fury with which they fought:—

"A party of about fifty men, conducted by the Molláh Abdorrahman, one of the most determined partisans of Kazi Molláh, was cut off from the rest of the troop, and blockaded in a large house. They had no chance of escape, but when summoned to surrender at discretion, they shouted out some verses of the Koran, as is their custom when they devote themselves to

death; then, piercing loop-holes in the walls, they directed a well-supported and well-directed fire against the assailants. Some grenades, thrown into the chimney, exploded in the midst of the house, but this shook not their resolution. As it was necessary to put an end to their bravado, orders were given to set fire to the house. Eleven of them, half suffocated by the smoke, came out and surrendered themselves; some others, with sword and dagger in hand, threw themselves on the bayonets of our soldiers; but the greater part died with the Molláh Abdorrahman, singing to the last their song of death."

A future age must determine whether these brave men were obstinate rebels or resolute patriots. Kazi Molláh had marched to the relief of his friends, but, having learned the news of their destruction, he returned to H'umry, and being joined by three thousand of his Mourids, prepared for a desperate resistance. General Rosen determined to march against him, undismayed by the formidable obstacles he had to encounter.

"The road to H'umry from the territory of the Tchetchentzes presents incredible difficulties. It ascends from Karanui to the snowy summit of a lofty mountain, and then descends in a winding direction about four versts, over the scarp side of a mountain, along precipices, and across rocks: it is only the breadth of an ordinary foot-path. It afterwards passes about the same distance over the narrow projections of rocks, where there is no means of passing from one to the other but ladders, with which it is necessary to come provided. When it afterwards joins another road coming from the village of Erpeli, it becomes still narrower between two lofty walls of perpendicular rock; and finally, in front of the village of H'umry, it is crossed by three walls, of which the first is flanked by towers. The whole side of the mountain is cut into terraces, so judiciously arranged as to afford the means of making the most effective resistance."

On the 23rd of October the Russians, under the protection of a thick fog, entered the mountain passes, and drove back the enemies' outposts. But such were the difficulties against which they had to contend, that it was the 29th before they could reach the walls of H'umry. So confident were the mountaineers in the strength of their fastnesses, that they declared "the Russians can only reach H'umry as the rain does," (viz. by descending from the clouds).

The preliminary operations for driving the enemy from the rocky precipices on both flanks, occupied the greater part of the 29th. Hamzad Bey, one of Kazi Molláh's firmest supporters, made an attempt to attack the detachments sent on this duty in the rear; but he was himself surprised by a battalion which had advanced from Erpeli, and completely routed. In consequence of this success, the Russians were enabled to push forward, until their light artillery enfiladed the walls of H'umry. The first wall was taken by storm, and the Russians pushed forward so rapidly, that they passed the second along with the fugitives; the mountaineers fled without making any resistance at the third line; and now nothing remained but to subdue the towers which flanked the first wall.

"After the soldiers had carried the first wall, it was not possible for the garrisons of the towers to escape. Still they refused to surrender, but on the contrary, made an obstinate resistance. General Veliaminov opened a heavy cannonade on the ramparts in front of the

towers; but as the bandits still maintained their fire, a body of volunteers from the corps of sappers and miners stormed the forts, and put the mountaineers who defended them to the sword. Amongst those who fell, were Kazi Molláh and his most distinguished partisans; their bodies, pierced with bayonets, were recognized the next morning by their countrymen. Night put an end to the combat, and our advanced guard halted between the third wall and the village. On the morning of the 30th of October, the Russian troops entered into H'umry."

The news of this success induced the chiefs of the surrounding villages to tender their submission; but Hamzad Bey made good his retreat to distant mountains, and still boldly maintains his independence. The Russian order of the day, issued after the capture of H'umry, is too characteristic to be omitted:—

"The justice of God has reached Kazi Molláh, the propagator of false doctrines, the enemy of peace. That ruffian, his principal adherents, and a number of wretches, that he had deceived, have been exterminated by the victorious Russian army, in the celebrated ravine of H'umry, hitherto deemed inaccessible. May this example serve as a warning to all the enemies of public repose! May they, listening to the voice of repentance, have recourse to the powerful government of Russia, and the great Emperor will in his goodness grant them pardon. But whoever for the future shall dare to form culpable projects, shall incur, without mercy, all the rigour of the laws. Neither mountains, forests, nor ravines shall save them. Everywhere shall the triumphant Russian troops penetrate; everywhere shall the disobedient and the rebellious be punished. The Galgai, the Itchkeri, the Tchetchentzes, the inhabitants of H'umry, and others, have learned this by bitter experience. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear and understand."

Poetical Aspirations. Second Edition; with additional Poems. By William Anderson, Esq. London: Smith, Elder & Co.

THIS is what the trade calls a very elegantly got up book: it has other merits; it contains many passages of sweet, graceful, and tender poetry. The author steals an hour now and then from the ungentle bickerings of politics, and bestows it on the muse; nor has she been kind, as the following strain will prove: it is full of warmth and delicacy:—

Serenade.

The mist is on the mountain,
The dew is on the flower;
The shadow on the fountain
Now deeper down doth lower;
The foliage, though dark its dress,
Assumes a darker hue;
For day, with all its loveliness,
Is fading from my view.

The stars that are in heaven strown,
Bright beaming from above,
Like angels' eyes, are looking down
In gentleness and love;
The moon is brightly smiling on
Our favourite bower, and me;
And must I linger here alone,
My lady-love, for thee?

Our trysted hour long since hath rung,
From every neighbouring tower;
The nightingale her hymn hath sung,
To hail the twilight hour;
Then what can stay my lady-love?
Why taries she so late?
'Tis past her time—the turtle dove
Is nestled with his mate.

A step is on the yielding grass,
Light as the morning dew!
And ah! the flowers, as she doth pass,
Rise brighter to the view;

'Tis she herself who treads the grove,
With fleetest foot to me;
My lady-love! my lady-love!
My blessing rest on thee!

There is a dance of words, and a kind of wild-wood gladness in the little piece called 'Through the Wood,' which we shall one of these days persuade a lady to sing: it will run very naturally with music.

Through the wood, through the wood,
Warbles the merle!
Through the wood, through the wood,
Gallops the earl!

Yet he heeds not its song
As it sinks on his ear,
For he lists to a voice
Than its music more dear.

Through the wood, through the wood,
Once and away,
The castle is gain'd,
And the lady is gay:

When her smile waxes sad,
And her eyes become dim:
Her bosom is glad,
If she gazes on him!

Through the wood, through the wood,
Over the wold,
Rides onward a band
Of true warriors bold;

They stop not for forest,
They halt not for water;
Their chieftain in sorrow
Is seeking his daughter.

Through the wood, through the wood,
Warbles the merle;
Through the wood, through the wood,
Frances the earl;

And on a gay palfrey
Comes pacing his bride;
While an old man sits smiling,
In joy by her side.

There are poems of a more serious and dignified nature in the volume; and some, too, of a festive strain.

EDINBURGH CABINET LIBRARY. No. XI.

Life of Sir Walter Raleigh: founded on Authentic and Original Documents, some of them never before published, &c. By Patrick Fraser Tytler, Esq. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd; London, Simpkin & Marshall.

Sir Walter Raleigh was one of the leading spirits of the golden days of Elizabeth: he gained the Queen's regard by his gallantry and good looks, and he kept it by his courage, his wisdom, and his exquisite flattery. He was in many ways eminent, and not more eminent than unfortunate: he was a distinguished warrior by land and sea—a statesman of a fertile fancy and ready apprehension—a historian with a right spirit of research—a philosopher, all but equal with the foremost—and a poet of such powers, that his compositions merited the fine praise of Spenser—

Sweet verse with nectar sprinkled.

But he was rash, headstrong, and outspoken: he admired Elizabeth, and sought not to conceal his dislike of the King of Scots, and seems to have been willing to hinder the house of Stuart from succeeding to the English throne. All this, and far more, was it appears, communicated to the timid James by the crafty Cecil; and the consequence was, that Raleigh was condemned on doubtful or perjured testimony, and died the death of a plotter, though he was the person most plotted against. We may say, truly, that justice has never been done till now to his great and injured spirit: Mr. Tytler has busied himself to good purpose, in collecting trustworthy materials for his biography: he has consulted carefully the Raleigh manuscripts in the British Museum—has made many extracts from original letters and jour-

nals in the State Paper Office—compared the conflicting testimonies of historians and courtiers, and formed from the whole a narrative as pleasing as it is clear, vigorous, and elegant. It wears, too, that air of truth which gains our credence, in spite of the suspicions and aspersions of Hume; and it will be read with pleasure by all who desire to see the cloud of calumny dispersed, which long hung so black and ominous over one of the noblest characters of other days. The faults of the volume are a certain exuberance of style, and a love of sketching the lives of all the leading men of the times of Raleigh. But there are readers who will not likely regard these as blemishes, and who may think with the author, that his portraits of Cecil, Spenser, Essex, and others, are essential to the work. We have only room for a passage or two to show the spirit in which the writer has related the life and actions of this great worthy: with respect to the person of Sir Walter, we find the following:—

"Sir Robert Naunton, who had no predilection for Raleigh, describes him as possessing at this time a mind of uncommon vigour, with a person and manners which attracted all who saw him. His countenance was somewhat spoiled by the unusual height of his forehead; but his expression was animated, his conversation varied and brilliant, and in speaking of matters of state he possessed a ready and convincing eloquence. Of this, not long afterwards, he was called upon to give an example before the queen and council, which all authors agree had a surprising effect. The occasion arose out of a dispute with Lord Grey of Wilton. What was the matter in debate does not exactly appear; though it is probable the severity of the late deputy in the massacre of the garrison at Fort del Ore, and the part borne by Raleigh and Mackworth in its execution, may have called for inquiry. It is certain, that on this occasion he defended himself with such spirit, and brought forward the history of the transaction in which his credit was involved with so much force and clearness, that it made an extraordinary impression in his favour both on the queen and the council; whilst the old lord, who was more of a blunt soldier than an orator, found himself overpowered by the weighty reasons urged against him."

Raleigh was one of the great sea captains who baffled and defeated the Spanish Armada: he fought on that occasion with equal valour and desperation—indeed, he never hesitated to expose his person: he led all attacks, and, as he was tall, strong, and active, and with promptitude of soul equal to his bravery, his men were kindled into a like enthusiasm by his example. As the Armada is a subject which can never lose its interest in this island, we transcribe a portion of the account of its equipment and appearance:—

"It was divided into seven squadrons. The first, consisting of twelve Portuguese galleons, under the command of the generalissimo, the Duke de Medina Sidonia; the second, of fourteen ships, being the fleet of Biscay, under the vice-admiral Juan Martinez de Recalde; the third, that of Castile, of sixteen ships, commanded by Don Diego de Valdez; the fourth, the Andalusian squadron, of eleven ships, by Pedro de Valdez; the fifth, the squadron of Guypuscoa, of fourteen ships, by Don Michel de Oquendo; the sixth, the eastern fleet, of ten ships, called Levantiscas, led by Don Martin de Bertendona; and, the seventh, of twenty-three urcas, or hulks, under the command of Juan Gomez de Medina. Besides these there were twenty-four vessels, called pataches or za-

bras, under Antonio de Mendoza, four galleasses of Naples, led by Hugo de Moncada, and four Portuguese galleys, by Don Juan Gomez de Medina. The united crews amounted to 8,766 mariners; and on board were 21,855 soldiers, besides 2,088 galley slaves. The ordnance was less than might have been expected, the whole fleet mounting only 3,165 guns; but exclusive of this the Armada contained a large quantity of stores for the army, consisting of cannon, double cannon, culverines, and field pieces; 7,000 muskets, 10,000 halberds, 56,000 quintals of gunpowder, and 12,000 quintals of match. Confident of success, the Spaniards loaded the ships with horses, mules, carts, wheels, waggons, spades, mattocks, baskets, and everything necessary for taking possession of the country; and the fleet and army were provisioned on an unexampled scale of profusion. Amongst other articles were 147,000 pipes of wine. The generalissimo, the officers under him, and the volunteers, who belonged to the noblest families in Spain, were attended by their suites, physicians, and domestics. Every want had been provided for, every wish anticipated, with a splendour befitting more the progress of an Asiatic potentate than the passage of an army against a formidable antagonist. Superstition, too, had sent her sanguinary votaries, with the apparatus of her triumphs. One hundred and eighty monks and jesuits embarked on board the Armada; and chains, wheels, racks, whips, and other instruments of torture, to be employed in the conversion or extirpation of the heretics, formed part of the lading. But this was not all the force that Elizabeth saw arrayed against her. In the Netherlands the Duke of Parma had prepared a flotilla of flat-bottomed boats, and collected an army of 30,000 men, commanded under him by Amadeus of Savoy, John of Medici, and Vespasian Gonzaga, Duke of Sabionetta; whilst the Duke of Guise was conducting 12,000 men to the coast of Normandy, in expectation of being received on board the fleet, and landed on the West of England."

But Raleigh's bravery in the matter of the Armada, and his skill and success on many other great occasions, were all lost on Elizabeth, when he forgot the royal and lovely Angelica of sixty, and married Miss Throgmorton, one of her maids of honour. He was sent to cool himself in the Tower, where he wrote, and raved, and acted the poetic madman with uncommon felicity—nay, when he saw from his window the Queen sailing down the Thames, he seemed disposed to escape from his keeper by means of a dagger—all, it was believed, to heighten the effect. A well-studied letter obtained his liberation: it was addressed to Cecil, on purpose to be shown to the Queen—let us look at the words which, in other days, moved the hearts of those who occupied thrones:—

"My heart was never broken till this day, that I hear the queen goes away so far off; whom I have followed so many years with so great love and desire in so many journeys, and I am now left behind her in a dark prison, all alone. While she was yet near at hand, that I might hear of her once in two or three days, my sorrows were the less. But even now my heart is cast into the depth of all misery—I that was wont to behold her riding like Alexander, hunting like Diana, walking like Venus; the gentle wind blowing her fair hair about her pure cheeks like a nymph; sometime sitting in the shade like a goddess; sometime singing like an angel; sometime playing like Orpheus. Behold the sorrow of this world! once amiss hath bereaved me of all. O glory that only shineth in misfortune, what is become of thine assurance? All wounds have scars but that of fantasy; all affections their relenting but that of womankind.

Who is the judge of friendship but adversity, or when is grace witnessed but in offences? There were no divinity but by reason of compassion, for revenges are brutish and mortal. All those times past, the loves, the sighs, the sorrows, the desires, can they not weigh down one frail misfortune? Cannot one drop of gall be hidden in such great heaps of sweetness?"

When Elizabeth died, the good fortune of Raleigh suffered an eclipse: he was disliked by the people for having aided in pursuing the accomplished Essex to the scaffold: he was disliked by James for the freedom with which he had spoken and acted regarding his accession: and he was hated by Cecil—for we know not well what—for his genius and his fame perhaps—from such often arises the hatred of the cunning and the base. The people heard with surprise that Raleigh was accused of high treason by Lord Cobham, who was himself impeached, and that Cecil, long his friend, had suddenly become his bitter enemy. Whoever wishes to see Burleigh in his natural colours, Coke acting the part of a tool, and both uniting to ruin a great and an innocent man, must read with attention the fifth and sixth chapters of this work. They will there find it proved, that Cecil was mean and perfidious—and all but proved, that the imaginary act of treason for which Raleigh was condemned, was Cecil's own contrivance to get rid of a man whose talents were in his way. Cobham, his accuser, was never confronted with him, though Raleigh and justice alike required it: nor was his ample unqualified recantation of the charge allowed to have any influence. He was found guilty, but respited by the King, and kept close prisoner in the Tower, where he wrote his 'History of the World.' In the course of time Cecil died, Raleigh was liberated, and the first use he made of his freedom was to plan his last and unfortunate expedition, by which he lost his son, his fortune, and his life.

In one of his early naval expeditions he captured a Spanish officer, who told him, on inquiring after an island laid down in his map of the New World, that the painter of the map put the island in to please his wife, and named it after her name: something of the sort seems to have happened in the case of Guiana, a land described as abounding in gold and silver, and which, though in the possession of the Spaniards, Raleigh resolved to visit, on purpose to enrich the king, and amend his own shattered fortunes. It is quite plain from his own account of this El Dorado, that he was himself imposed upon: a man who embarks his life and fortune in an enterprise, cannot be otherwise than in earnest: but he neglected to obtain a pardon from the king, believing—and we think properly—that a commission from the throne was equivalent, and sailed full of hope with a band of gallant adventurers. His plans were betrayed to the Spanish Court by the Court of London: he was attacked at sea, repulsed when he landed, his eldest son and some of his chief officers slain, and he returned, disconsolate and ruined, to England, and was arrested and executed on his former sentence, in defiance alike of mercy and justice. We would willingly add the character of this truly great man from the pen of Mr. Tyler; it is comprehensive and minute—clear, manly, and eloquent—but we cannot find room for the whole, and will not maim a performance

so masterly. There are heads of Burleigh, Spenser, and Essex on wood; we have seen nothing in that material equal to the portrait of the former: it even surpasses the one on steel of Raleigh.

The Last Essays of Elia; being a Sequel to Essays published under that name.

[Second Notice.]

We are about to execute our piratical threats, and extract from this pleasant volume a paper called 'Barbara S—,' which will have additional interest for the reader, when he is informed that under this masking disguise, is really shadowed forth some incidents in the early life of an actress, who, with her 'Dramatic Recollections,' is just now delighting the public.

"Barbara S—."

"On the noon of the 14th of November, 1743 or 4, I forget which it was, just as the clock had struck one, Barbara S—, with her accustomed punctuality, ascended the long rambling staircase, with awkward interposed landing-places, which led to the office, or rather a sort of box with a desk in it, whereat sat the then Treasurer of (what few of our readers may remember) the Old Bath Theatre. All over the island it was the custom, and remains so I believe to this day, for the players to receive their weekly stipend on the Saturday. It was not much that Barbara had to claim.

"This little maid had just entered her eleventh year; but her important station at the theatre, as it seemed to her, with the benefits which she felt to accrue from her pious application of her small earnings, had given an air of womanhood to her steps and to her behaviour. You would have taken her to have been at least five years older.

"Till latterly she had merely been employed in choruses, or where children were wanted to fill up the scene. But the manager, observing a diligence and adroitness in her above her age, had for some few months past intrusted to her the performance of whole parts. You may guess the self consequence of the promoted Barbara. She had already drawn tears in young Arthur; had rallied Richard with infantine petulance in the Duke of York; and in her turn had rebuked that petulance when she was Prince of Wales. She would have done the elder child in Morton's pathetic after-piece to the life; but as yet the 'Children in the Wood' was not.

"Long after this little girl was grown an aged woman, I have seen some of these small parts, each making two or three pages at most, copied out in the rudest hand of the then prompter, who doubtless transcribed a little more carefully and fairly for the grown-up tragedy ladies of the establishment. But such as they were, blotted and scrawled, as for a child's use, she kept them all; and in the zenith of her after reputation it was a delightful sight to behold them bound up in costliest Morocco, each single—each small part making a book—with fine clasps, gilt-splashed, &c. She had conscientiously kept them as they had been delivered to her; not a blot had been effaced or tampered with. They were precious to her for their affecting remembrances. They were her principia, her rudiments; the elementary atoms; the little steps by which she pressed forward to perfection. 'What,' she would say, 'could Indian rubber, or a pumice stone, have done for these darlings?'

"I am in no hurry to begin my story—indeed I have little or none to tell—so I will just mention an observation of hers connected with that interesting time.

"Not long before she died I had been discoursing with her on the quantity of real present emotion which a great tragic performer expe-

riences during acting. I ventured to think, that though in the first instance such players must have possessed the feelings which they so powerfully called up in others, yet by frequent repetition those feelings must become deadened in great measure, and the performer trust to the memory of past emotion, rather than express a present one. She indignantly repelled the notion, that with a truly great tragedian the operation, by which such effects were produced upon an audience, could ever degrade itself into what was purely mechanical. With much delicacy, avoiding to instance in her self-experience, she told me, that so long ago as when she used to play the part of the Little Son to Mrs. Porter's Isabella (I think it was) when that impressive actress has been bending over her in some heart-rending colloquy, she has felt real hot tears come trickling from her, which (to use her powerful expression) have perfectly scalded her back.

"I am not quite so sure that it was Mrs. Porter; but it was some great actress of that day. The name is indifferent; but the fact of the scalding tears I most distinctly remember.

"As I was about to say—at the desk of the then treasurer of the old Bath theatre—not Diamond's—presented herself the little Barbara S—.

"The parents of Barbara had been in reputable circumstances. The father had practised, I believe, as an apothecary in the town. But his practice from causes which I feel my own infirmity too sensibly that way to arraign—or perhaps from that pure infelicity which accompanies some people in their walk through life, and which it is impossible to lay at the door of imprudence—was now reduced to nothing. They were in fact in the very teeth of starvation, when the manager, who knew and respected them in better days, took the little Barbara into his company.

"At the period I commenced with, her slender earnings were the sole support of the family, including two younger sisters. I must throw a veil over some mortifying circumstances. Enough to say, that her Saturday's pittance was the only chance of a Sunday's (generally their only) meal of meat.

"One thing I will only mention, that in some child's part, where in her theatrical character she was to sup off a roast fowl (O joy to Barbara!) some comic actor, who was for the night caterer for this dainty—in the misguided humour of his part, threw over the dish such a quantity of salt (O grief and pain of heart to Barbara!) that when he crammed a portion of it into her mouth, she was obliged sputtering to reject it; and what with shame of her ill-acted part, and pain of real appetite at missing such a dainty, her little heart sobbed almost to breaking, till a flood of tears, which the well-fed spectators were totally unable to comprehend, mercifully relieved her.

"This was the little starved, meritorious maid, who stood before old Ravenscroft, the treasurer, for her Saturday's payment.

"Ravenscroft was a man, I have heard many old theatrical people besides herself say, of all men least calculated for a treasurer. He had no head for accounts, paid away at random, kept scarce any books, and summing up at the week's end, if he found himself a pound or so deficient, bled himself that it was no worse.

"Now Barbara's weekly stipend was a bare half guinea.—By mistake he popped into her hand a—whole one.

"Barbara tripped away.

"She was entirely unconscious at first of the mistake: God knows, Ravenscroft would never have discovered it.

"But when she had got down to the first of those uncouth landing-places, she became sensible of an unusual weight of metal pressing her little hand.

"Now mark the dilemma.

"She was by nature a good child. From her parents and those about her she had imbibed no contrary influence. But then they had taught her nothing. Poor men's smoky cabins are not always porticoes of moral philosophy. This little maid had no instinct to evil, but then she might be said to have no fixed principle. She had heard honesty commended, but never dreamed of its application to herself. She thought of it as something which concerned grown-up people—men and women. She had never known temptation, or thought of preparing resistance against it.

"Her first impulse was to go back to the old treasurer, and explain to him his blunder. He was already so confused with age, besides a natural want of punctuality, that she would have had some difficulty in making him understand it. She saw that in an instant. And then it was such a bit of money! and then the image of a larger allowance of butcher's meat on their table next day came across her, till her little eyes glistened, and her mouth moistened. But then Mr. Ravenscroft had always been so good-natured, had stood her friend behind the scenes, and even recommended her promotion to some of her little parts. But again the old man was reputed to be worth a world of money. He was supposed to have fifty pounds a year clear of the theatre. And then came staring upon her the figures of her little stockingless and shoeless sisters. And when she looked at her own neat white cotton stockings, which her situation at the theatre had made it indispensable for her mother to provide for her, with hard straining and pinching from the family stock, and thought how glad she should be to cover their poor feet with the same—and how then they could accompany her to rehearsals, which they had hitherto been precluded from doing, by reason of their unfashionable attire,—in these thoughts she reached the second landing-place—the second, I mean from the top—for there was still another left to traverse.

"Now virtue support Barbara!

"And that never-failing friend did step in—for at that moment a strength not her own, I have heard her say, was revealed to her—a reason above reasoning—and without her own agency, as it seemed (for she never felt her feet to move) she found herself transported back to the individual desk she had just quitted, and her hand in the old hand of Ravenscroft, who in silence took back the refunded treasure, and who had been sitting (good man) insensible to the lapse of minutes, which to her were anxious ages; and from that moment a deep peace fell upon her heart, and she knew the quality of honesty.

"A year or two's unrepining application to her profession brightened up the feet, and the prospects, of her little sisters, set the whole family upon their legs again, and released her from the difficulty of discussing moral dogmas upon a landing-place.

"I have heard her say, that it was a surprise, not much short of mortification to her, to see the coolness with which the old man pocketed the difference, which had caused her such mortal throes."

We shall hereafter, perhaps, glean one or two of the "Popular Fallacies" from this pleasant volume.

Le Mie Prigioni: Memorie di Silvio Pellico da Saluzzo. Londra, 1833. Rolandi.

A remarkably neat edition of this interesting work. It will be very acceptable to our Italian scholars; and we hope, for the sake of our English readers, that the translation will not be long deferred.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Too censorious for one who writes anisms.—Pope.

SIR,—Concurring with you in the opinion that a journal like yours ought not to become the vehicle of controversy, and that the letter I addressed to you on the subject of the line proposed to be followed in erecting the intended National Gallery, is to be regarded in the light of an explanation, it is not without reluctance that I request of you a departure from a principle of general application. There are circumstances, however, in the attack of a cotemporary journal, which has arisen from a statement made public through the medium of your valuable paper, which leaves me no means of defence by any other channel than that which affords, at the least, the same extent of circulation. I therefore claim your indulgence on the present occasion, in order to refute the statement made last week by the editor of the *Literary Gazette*, which abounds in misrepresentations, (to give them the most charitable epithet,) and propagates a graphic libel more detrimental to an artist than any written description.

The editor, Mr. Jerdan, addressed himself to me at the opening of the British Institution, for I had declined the offer of being introduced to him more than once, and, consequently, knew him only personally. He requested from me an outline or drawing of the proposed Gallery for insertion in his journal: a request I refused for several reasons; but, principally, because, although the intention of erecting a National Gallery was as notorious as noon, having been disseminated and dispersed in all directions, as well through the printed notices of the House of Commons as the public papers, provincial and metropolitan, yet this professed vehicle of communication of everything connected with Literature and the Arts had, in no one instance, alluded to a circumstance which must have been one of high interest to all concerned in the promotion of the Fine Arts.

It is to this refusal that I attribute the tone assumed in this first notice of the subject in the *Literary Gazette*, which had hitherto observed a most profound and obviously intentional silence on the subject. The motives for such a silence, under such circumstances, I could perhaps explain, for no one can be the dupe of those assigned by the editor. What! the delicate and conscientious observer of silence on information derived from private society, affecting to hold sacred its intercourse!—the surreptitious possessor of a design which was refused to him, and a sight of which was accorded him in courtesy, to talk of forbearance on sacred grounds!! What mockery! I certainly told Mr. Jerdan that I had no hesitation in affording him the opportunity of seeing the model, and that he was at perfect liberty to make such observations as might occur to him on inspecting it. This was nearly all that passed between us, and he availed himself of part of the permission only—for, can it or will it be credited that this candid critic, this arbiter of what is elegant in the Arts, up to the time of writing his observations had not inspected the model? nor do I believe that he has yet seen it! He wrote, indeed, to the Secretary of the Woods and Forests for permission to see it, accompanied by a friend, which that most excellent and correct officer immediately granted. Mr. Jerdan availed himself of the offer—so far as to send an artist, who, on being seen in the act of making a drawing of the model, was informed, that he could not be permitted to take or make use of any sketch of it.

So much for the mode in which the pseudo-journalist of the Fine Arts obtains and transmits his information to his subscribers.

The reason I assigned to Mr. Jerdan for my

refusal, was, that an engraving which would give a just conception of the design, would be attended with a cost which could not be repaid by the circulation of a journal: to which he replied, that he should have no objection to incur such expense. This I regarded as a *façon de parler*, something of the same nature as his puff in the public papers, which describes a print that would disgrace a halfpenny ballad, as a *fine engraving*. No one who looks at his print could imagine that the port-holes in the lower story are windows nine feet high by four in width in the model; or that, in fact, the lower division, where these windows occur, is to the upper, where niches are shown, in the ratio of eighteen to ten, and not in that of eight to ten, as represented in his print; and no one with the slightest knowledge of symmetry could possibly represent turrets in positions so wholly at variance with it. In the original there are nine niches, intended hereafter for statues of the Muses, on each side of the central portico. The print shows eight, two of which occur where none are shown in the model. The fact is, that the artist, being interrupted in his clandestine operation, has altogether omitted the two ends of the building in his representation.

Through the indulgence afforded me by two of the evening papers, the *Globe* and the *Albion*, I was enabled to issue a little cotemporary antidote to the poison emitted; but the interval between the publication of the journal and these papers, allowed me no time for more than a protest against the acceptance of the print as a representation of the building about to be erected, and to impugn the accuracy of the statement which accompanied this wretched production.

I will now select some of the passages of this veracious statement, for the purpose of making remarks upon them; and first, take the following as an example of consistency:—

"In our populous and crowded metropolis, it is difficult to find any spot adequate to the erection of a (worthy to be so called) National Gallery. The site assigned, is *most eligible*." Towards the end, however, the editor forgets his approbation of the site, and says—"The building will be infested with soldiers, and cooped in by barracks." These are not objections either to the building or to the line it is to assume; my proposed variation in the line which forms part of the subject of his invective, throws it farther away from both. He proceeds to say, "We are surprised that this project is cramped even for present use, and incapable of extension." Had the editor of a journal devoted to the Arts, given the slightest attention to the subject—had he ever seen the plan describing the arrangement and position of the intended accommodations, which he has had no opportunity of doing, he would have avoided two assertions that are entirely unfounded! The apartments intended for the national collection are sufficiently spacious to contain twice the present number, and the building is capable of enlargement to more than double this capacity!!

"It is true that only 50,000*l.* have been voted for this object, but this is a farce; thrice the amount will not complete the plan, and the first rough estimated contract will nearly double it." Here the editor displays the knowledge of a practical builder; I do not, indeed, understand what is meant by a *rough estimated contract*: this is one of the mysteries of trade, I presume.

It was originally intended, that a certain amount should not be exceeded in erecting this building, but the proposal was so warmly received by Parliament, that several additions have been made to it. It was first intended that the building should be in brick coated with cement; but it has been since determined to face it with Portland stone. This and some additional accommodations have augmented the first

rough estimate, but the whole expenditure will not exceed the half of the *practical builder's* supposed amount!! Indeed, Mr. Jerdan, you should only speak on such subjects as you understand, before you assert as a fact, what you must well know would excite a strong prejudice in the mind of the public.

"It will be misplaced, and anomalous by the side of such an edifice as St. Martin's Church, and in the midst of five-story-high edifices.... that it will bear neither resemblance nor relation to the buildings by which it is surrounded." To which of the buildings in the neighbourhood would the sapient editor have a resemblance? To the church, to the shops, or the College of Physicians, or all? I have always considered that the design of a building should, as much as possible, denote the purposes for which it is erected. The edifices in the neighbourhood, with which it will be seen in conjunction, are the College of Physicians, a two-story building of Grecian design, St. Martin's Church, a Vitruvian, or Roman building, if the editor prefers the designation, also of two stories: the buildings at the angle of Duncannon Street, which here exhibit four stories, and the shops in Pall Mall East with four stories, and an *entresol*. I cannot perceive so vast an anomaly between the design for the Gallery, the College of Physicians, and St. Martin's Church; perhaps, however, he may wish for a repetition of the spire—apropos of spires, he should tell us from what book of Vitruvius, or from what Roman edifice, the architect of St. Martin's Church took the spire—an ornament so *analogous* to the style of the building! To proceed with the observations of the editor.

"Mr. Wilkins' other buildings, Downing College, Cambridge, the London University, and St. George's Hospital, are samples—the new work will be the *least elevated* of them all." The editor here betrays as much acquaintance with Downing College, as he does with the Gallery—and his knowledge of both is probably derived from similar sources, namely, the faculty of *second sight*. Some of his countrymen are said to possess this faculty to a great extent. I am sorry again to impugn the veracity of his remarks, by asserting that the National Gallery will be *nearly twice* the height of the buildings of Downing College, and to repudiate the inference he would draw from St. George's Hospital, by the fact of its being higher than any of the buildings in the neighbourhood. How, indeed, should Mr. Jerdan know anything of the height of the proposed Gallery? No scale is added to the model, and his artist could only make a *rough estimate* of its height. Indeed, Mr. Jerdan you should not expose yourself to such contradictions; they will not prop your tottering paper fabric.

"Thus he contends that the much admired portico of St. Martin's church is an *ugly, irregular, and stupid* violation of the just rules of proportion, and it is little matter what becomes of it—his line will cut it in two, and the spectator looking from Pall Mall East, will see only half a portico and half a church." Truly, Mr. Jerdan, you have the art of reconciling opinions of opposite tendency to a remarkable extent, although perhaps you read as you see, by proxy. My version of the foregoing critique says as follows: "All these circumstances render an oblique view the most favourable for the building, and, in fact, as seen from Cockspur Street, the effect, in spite of the spire, is *really beautiful*. To obstruct the view from the point in Cockspur Street, where the portico first comes in sight, to Charing Cross,† would really be *unpardonable*. If the spectator looks from Pall Mall East, he will see only half the portico—you might have added, that if he now looks

† In the printed letter, in the *Athenæum* of Feb. 16, these two sentences were transposed by accident.

from Pall Mall he will not see it at all. Surely, Mr. Jerdan, half a portico is better than no portico, as half a loaf is said to be better than no bread—a maxim, the truth of which you may live to verify, if your journal be not conducted with more regard to candour, honesty, and veracity.

"Vitruvius, whom, by-the-bye, he translated, and so propagated his errors, knew, he assures us, little more than a goose about building." This expression is not mine, but yours. If I had said that he knew little more about building than you, Mr. Jerdan, your expression and mine would have been much more easily reconcilable. Far from propagating the errors of Vitruvius, the aim of my translation is to separate them from such parts of his system as are in conformity with Grecian principles; but Mr. Jerdan, consistent in his practice of looking at nothing, has never looked into the work he mentions.

"Such is the architect's devotedness to the Greek architecture, that he maintains the expediency of making everything else yield to it . . . and, in short, that there is nothing good but the pure Greek, according to which he is resolved to frame our British Gallery." If Mr. Jerdan had understood anything of Greek architecture, and had inspected the model, he would have observed some departures, and important ones, from the pure Greek: amongst others, he would have seen archways which are not of

Grecian origin; but circumstances call for their introduction, and I have yielded to the demand. He would have observed that the building has so much resemblance with all those in the neighbourhood as to be surmounted by a parapet and ballusters; a termination that is certainly not pure Greek. He would have seen that it has a dome, which, in fact, is not Greek at all!!!

I shall end with Mr. Jerdan by recommending him to abstain from the mention of all such subjects as he is ignorant of: but, as this advice might confine his remarks within narrow limits, let him indulge in that portion of his pursuits where his ready praise of the publications of his bookselling patrons brings him certain emolument without risk; there is no danger in puffing or praising, if he steers clear of comparisons; but he will run great hazard when, as on the present occasion, he writes in ignorance of his subject: silence here is good policy; and I dismiss him with a golden rule, couched in homely language—"Eat your pudding, Sir, and hold your tongue!"

I have to entreat your indulgence, Mr. Editor, for the length to which these replies have led me. It is rather hard that I, who have abused nobody but a man who has been dead these thousand years, should be the object of personal attack. I had, indeed, expected to be assailed by the small fry of criticism, and I had made up my mind not to notice anonymous attacks; but if

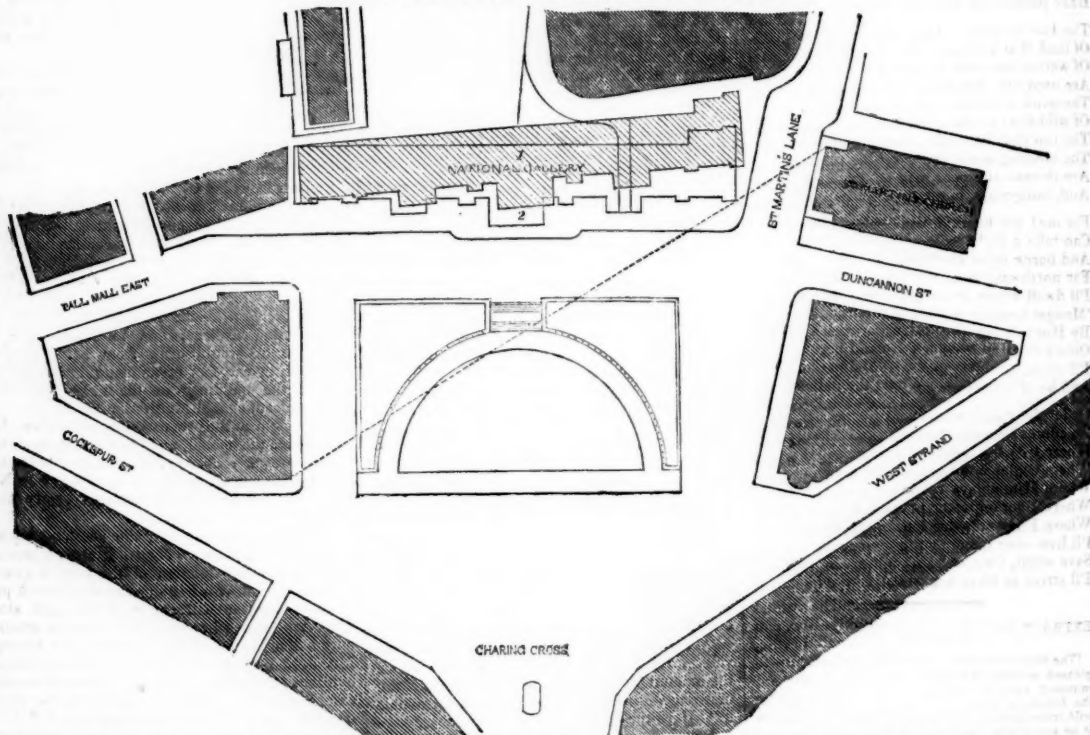
I had suffered the uncandid assertions of one who has erected himself into the championship of the Fine Arts, to pass unheeded, especially as the editor of a journal has the weapons in his own hands, and the power of relating the conflict in his own way, they might have been received as unanswerable.

Secure of the grounds on which I stand, I should feel no hesitation in answering the candid criticisms of any acknowledged writer; if I considered his reasoning or his arguments of sufficient force to attract attention, and to influence the hesitating portion of mankind; but I do not court controversy, and when I feel myself called upon to reply, it is with extreme repugnance. Anonymous criticism affords to the cowardly and the base the opportunity of uttering calumnies with impunity: to answer such would be to debase myself to the level of the calumniator. When attacks are personal, and conducted in a spirit of overweening assurance, I feel myself sufficiently strong to measure weapons with my antagonist, without fear of the result. As to the vanity I displayed in the letter I first addressed to you, I acknowledge myself to be guilty of the charge to any extent it may please anonymous writers to assume or assert.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM WILKINS.

Weymouth Street, Feb. 26, 1833.

SITE OF THE PROPOSED NATIONAL GALLERY.



The extraordinary interest which the public have taken in the question relating to the line of front in the National Gallery, has induced us to have an engraving made of the site and neighbourhood. The ground plan, No. 1, marked in shadow, shows the *original* line of front, which extends obliquely from the east end of Pall Mall to the *northern* extremity of the portico of St. Martin's Church: that marked No. 2, in outline, shows the *proposed* line, which extends from the same point to the *southern* extremity of the portico. Whoever shall attentively consider these plans in reference merely to the general effect of the buildings, must, we think, agree with us, that the *proposed* line would be a great improvement. At the same time, it must be admitted, that other and important circumstances ought to be considered before the question is finally determined. We are of opinion, that many of the objections urged against the proposed line are founded on a mistaken feeling of personal interests; still, the interests of individuals ought not to be lost sight of. For ourselves, we are decided, that, whether the north or south porch be determined on as the limit to the east end of the Gallery, the building must be *parallel* to the *proposed* line: if the architect cannot be permitted to advance beyond the north column of the portico, then the western extremity of the building *must be thrown back*, in a proportionate degree. There can be no serious objection to this change, and it would, we believe, conciliate all parties. It might, indeed, be necessary to remove a small portion of the Barrack, which, at the western end, abuts upon the site; but, the expense of this would be so trifling, as to be wholly unworthy a second thought.

THE EMIGRANT'S SONG.

BY ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

THE sails are spread, the tapering mast
Bends leeward, quivering in the blast;
Kind hands that ne'er may clasp again,
Have ta'en their last and fondest strain;
Eyes gushing like a spring-time brook,
Have had their latest, saddest look;
And from old England's anchoring ground
My bark bursts seaward with a bound,
While following on our foaming path,
The ravening storm howls in his wrath.

Some o'er the glad some billows dance,
To woo the sun-burned belles of France,
Or through fallen Rome's luxurious clime,
Make music plume the steps of time,—
For glory some, and more for gain,
Rejoicing brave the perilous main;
But fate on sterner terms wafts me,
Thus sorrowing, o'er the stormy sea,—
A song of mingled scorn and woe
Bursts from my lips as forth I go.

No more, roused by the summoning horn,
I'll reap old England's golden corn,
Or daleward walk, and whistling blythe,
The fragrant sward sweep with the scythe,
Or round the May-pole leaping light,
Make mirth the partner of midnight.
In vain, for me, from conquering hordes,
My sires the Isle saved with their swords;
A haughty band, a pampered race,
Have pushed me from my dwelling-place.

The Isle is theirs! They are the heirs
Of land that yields, of tree that bears,
Of waters too—the plough and line
Are used but that the proud may dine.
The wind is theirs, with all it brings
Of wild-fowl to the groves and springs:
The tim'rous hare, the bounding deer,
The bleating herd, the fattening steer,
Are theirs—the poor may naked lie,
And, hungering, curse their lot and die.

For me! my heart in youth-hood's hour,
Can take a flight beyond their power,
And borne upon the barren brine,
Far northward from the burning line;
I'll dwell where drear Mackenzie flows,
'Mongst howling wolves, and falling snows;
By Huron's yet unvoyaged lake,
Ohio's thick unthreaded brake—
I'll roam, and fish, and hunt, and sing,
And be of mine own person king.

Or let the rough winds waft me far,
To climes beneath the eastern star;
Where free the tameless Tartar ranges—
Where eagles build beyond the Ganges—
Where Himalaya rears her mountains—
Where Boorampooter pours her fountains—
Where England's flag hath never flutter'd—
I'll live—her name by me unuttered,
Save when, for much unkindness sighing,
I'll strive to bless her whilst I'm dying.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WASHINGTON IRVING.

[The friends of this distinguished writer will be well pleased to hear of him, and still more to read of his intended visit to Europe. To the public generally, the following sketch of his journeyings among the wild tribes beyond the verge of civilization cannot fail to be acceptable; and we earnestly hope, that it will not be long before we have something more than a sketch of this interesting tour.]

Washington City, Dec. 18, 1832.

I arrived here a few days since, from a tour of several months, which carried me far to the West, beyond the bounds of civilization.

After I wrote to you in August, from, I think, Niagara, I proceeded, with my agreeable fellow-travellers, Mr. L. and Mr. P.†, to Buffalo, and

† Mr. Latrobe and Count Portalis. Mr. Irving had met with those gentlemen at Boston, in July, and they

we embarked at Black Rock, on Lake Erie. On board of the steam-boat was Mr. E., one of the commissioners appointed by government to superintend the settlement of the emigrant Indian tribes, to the west of the Mississippi. He was on his way to the place of rendezvous, and on his invitation, we agreed to accompany him in his expedition. The offer was too tempting to be resisted: I should have an opportunity of seeing the remnants of those great Indian tribes, which are now about to disappear as independent nations, or to be amalgamated under some new form of government. I should see those fine countries of the "far west," while still in a state of pristine wildness, and behold herds of buffaloes scouring their native prairies, before they are driven beyond the reach of a civilized tourist.

We, accordingly, traversed the centre of Ohio, and embarked in a steam-boat at Cincinnati, for Louisville, in Kentucky. Thence we descended the Ohio River in another steam-boat, and ascended the Mississippi to St. Louis. Our voyage was prolonged by repeatedly running aground, in consequence of the lowness of the waters, and on the last occasion we were nearly wrecked and sent to the bottom, by encountering another steam-boat coming with all the impetus of a high pressure engine, and a rapid current. Fortunately we had time to shear a little so as to receive the blow obliquely, which carried away part of a wheel, and all the upper works on one side of the boat.

From St. Louis I went to Fort Jefferson, about nine miles distant, to see Black Hawk, the Indian warrior, and his fellow prisoners—a forlorn crew, emaciated and dejected—the redoubtable chieftain himself, a meagre old man upwards of seventy. He has, however, a fine head, a Roman style of face, and a prepossessing countenance.

At St. Louis, we bought horses for ourselves, and a covered waggon for our baggage, tents, provisions, &c.; and travelled by land to Independence, a small frontier hamlet of log-houses, situated between two and three hundred miles up the Missouri, on the utmost verge of civilization.

From Independence, we struck across the Indian country, along the line of Indian missions; and arrived, on the 8th of October, after ten or eleven days' tramp, at Fort Gibson, a frontier fort in Arkansas. Our journey lay almost entirely through vast prairies, or open grassy plains, diversified occasionally by beautiful groves, and deep fertile bottoms along the streams of water. We lived in frontier and almost Indian style, camping out at nights, except when we stopped at the Missionaries, scattered here and there in this vast wilderness. The weather was serene, and we encountered but one rainy night and one thunder storm, and I found sleeping in a tent a very sweet and healthy repose. It was now upwards of three weeks since I had left St. Louis and taken to travelling on horseback, and it agreed with me admirably.

On arriving at Fort Gibson, we found that a mounted body of Rangers, nearly a hundred, had set off two days before to make a wide tour to the west and south, through the wild hunting countries; by way of protecting the friendly Indians, who had gone to the buffalo hunting, and to overawe the Pawnees, who are the wandering Arabs of the West, and continually on the maraud. We determined to proceed on the track of this party, escorted by a dozen or fourteen horsemen, (that we might have nothing to apprehend from any straggling party of Pawnees,) and with three or four Indians as guides

had travelled together to the White Mountains of New Hampshire, through a country which he describes as beautiful, with a fine mixture of lakes and forests, and bright pure running streams.

and interpreters, including a captive Pawnee woman. A couple of Creek Indians were despatched by the commander of the Fort to overtake the party of Rangers, and order them to await our coming up with them. We were now to travel in still simpler and rougher style, taking as little baggage as possible, and depending on our hunting for supplies; but were to go through a country abounding with game. The finest sport we had hitherto had, was an incidental wolf hunt, as we were traversing a prairie; which was very animated and picturesque. I felt now completely launched in a savage life, and extremely excited and interested by this wild country, and the wild scenes and people by which I was surrounded. Our rangers were expert hunters, being mostly from Illinois, Tennessee, &c.

We overtook the exploring party of mounted Rangers in the course of three days, on the banks of the Arkansas; and the whole troop crossed that river on the 16th of October, some on rafts, some fording. Our own immediate party had a couple of half bred Indians as servants, who understood the Indian customs. They constructed a kind of boat or raft out of a buffalo skin, on which Mr. E. and myself crossed the river and its branches, at several times, on the top of about a hundred weight of baggage—an odd mode of crossing a river a quarter of a mile wide.

We now led a true hunting life, sleeping in the open air, and living upon the produce of the chase, for we were three hundred miles beyond human habitation, and part of the time, in a country hitherto unexplored.

We got to the region of buffaloes and wild horses; killed some of the former, and caught some of the latter. We were, moreover, on the hunting grounds of the Pawnees, the terror of that frontier; a race who scour the Prairies on fleet horses, and are like the Tartars or roving Arabs.

We had to set guards round our camp, and tie up our horses for fear of surprise; but, though we had an occasional alarm, we passed through the country without seeing a single Pawnee. I brought off, however, the tongue of a buffalo, of my own shooting, as a trophy of my hunting, and am determined to rest my renown as a hunter, upon that exploit, and never to descend to smaller game. We returned to Fort Gibson, after a campaign of about thirty days, well seasoned by hunter's fare and hunter's life.

From Fort Gibson, I was about five days descending the Arkansas to the Mississippi, in a steam-boat, a distance of several hundred miles; I then continued down the latter river to New Orleans, where I passed some days very pleasantly.

New Orleans is one of the most motley and amusing places in the United States; a mixture of America and Europe. The French part of the city is a counterpart of some French provincial towns; and the levee, or esplanade, along the river, presents the most whimsical groupings of people of all nations, castes, and colours; French, Spanish, Indian, Half-breeds, Creoles, Mulattoes, Kentuckians, &c. I passed two days with Mr. M., on his sugar plantation, just at the time when they were making sugar.

From New Orleans I set off, on the mail stage, through Mobile, and proceeded on, through Alabama, Georgia, South and North Carolina, and Virginia, to Washington, a long and rather a dreary journey, travelling frequently day and night, and much of the road through pine forests, in the winter season.

At Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, I passed a day most cordially with our friend P. I dined also with G. H., whom I had known in New York, when a young man, and who is a perfect gentleman, though somewhat a Hotspur

in politics. It is really lamentable to see so fine a set of gallant fellows, as the leading Nullifiers are, so sadly in the wrong. They have just cause of complaint, and have been hardly dealt with, but they are putting themselves completely in the wrong, by the mode they take to redress themselves. As a committee of Congress is now occupied in the formation of a bill for the reduction of the Tariff, I hope that such a bill may be devised and carried, as will satisfy the moderate part of the Nullifiers. But I grieve to see so many elements of national prejudice, hostility, and selfishness, stirring and fermenting, with activity and acrimony.

I intended stopping but a few days at Washington, and then proceeding to New York; but I doubt now whether I shall not linger for some time. I am very pleasantly situated: I have a snug, cheery, cosey, little apartment in the immediate neighbourhood of Mr. —, and take my meals at his house—and, in fact, make it my home. I have thus the advantage of a family circle, and that a delightful one, and the precious comfort of a little bachelor retreat and *sunctum sanctorum*, where I can be as lonely and independent as I please. Washington is an interesting place to see public characters, and this is an interesting crisis. Everybody, too, is so much occupied with his own or the public business that, now that I have got through the formal visits, I can have my time pretty much to myself.

As to the kind of pledge I gave, you are correct in your opinion. It was given in the warmth and excitement of the moment—was from my lips before I was aware of its unqualified extent, and is to be taken *cum grano salis*. It is absolutely my intention to make our country my home for the residue of my days; and the more I see of it, the more I am convinced, that I can live here with more enjoyment than in Europe; but I shall certainly pay my friends in France, and relations in England, a visit, in the course of a year or two, to pass joyously a season in holiday style.

You have no idea how agreeably one can live in this country, especially one, like myself, who can change place at will, and meet friends at every turn. Politics also, which makes such a figure in the newspapers, do not enter so much as you imagine into private life; and I think there is a much better tone respecting them, generally, in society, than there was formerly; in fact, the mode of living, the sources of quiet enjoyment, and the sphere of friendly and domestic pleasures, are improved and multiplied to a degree that would delightfully surprise you.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

THE column in remembrance of the Duke of York is now completed, and the statue which is to crown it, is nearly ready, in the foundry of Westmacott; it is of colossal dimensions. It is, we hear, settled, that the Equestrian Statue of George IV., preparing by Chantrey, shall occupy a pedestal of its own: the site is not fixed upon: it was originally intended for the top of that arch called The Triumphal, which stands in advance of Buckingham Palace. Though these are what are usually called large commissions, we are sorry to hear that little is doing in the way of sculpture: artists of acknowledged talent are all but idle.

Southey, we hear, has penned a searching and sarcastic answer to the letter lately published, respecting his taste and opinions by Lord Nugent. Mr. Galt (now, we are concerned to learn, very ill,) has written a tale in his own homely and happy manner, which

will form the fourth volume of Ritchie's Library of Romance. Mr. Picken too, we are informed, has in contemplation a series of domestic stories; and a new work from the pen of D'Israeli is on the point of going to the press.

We have yet only had time to dip into the Magazines, but we observe, that *Fraser and The New Antijacobin*, (a young periodical we had not before heard of,) have both rushed out with another of Lord Byron's offensive personalities. We know not how to account for this rage for raking together all evidence of the bad passions of that unhappy man—it seems to us, that it would be infinitely better to suppress such things; and in proof of the sincerity of our opinion, we may state, that we have had copies of this libel on Dr. Nott for eighteen months, in our possession. The verses too attributed to Mr. Beckford, we had heard before, although fathered upon Lord Byron; and we incline to believe, that *Fraser* has got hold of them, not improperly on his part, but by an abuse of private confidence on the part of others.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 28.—Mark Isambard Brunel, Esq., Vice President, in the chair.—A paper was read, entitled 'A Relation of the Case of Thomas Hardy Kirman, with remarks on Corpulency,' by Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, Esq., F.R.S. A second paper was in part read, entitled 'Experimental determination of the Laws of Magneto-electric Induction in different masses of the same Metal, and of its intensity in different Metals,' by Samuel H. Christie, Esq., F.R.S.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 25.—A chart, showing the track of Captain Biscoe in the brig *Tula*, along the coast of the newly discovered land, was laid before the Society, and accompanied with further particulars of the voyage.

A paper was read, containing an account of the visit of H.M.S. *Seringapatani*, to Easter and Pitcairn's Islands, in 1839, under the command of Captain Waldegrave, R.N. The *Seringapatani* was assailed by the natives on her arrival, in the usual way, and pilfering was the order of the day. As an amusing instance, it was mentioned, that one of the natives was detected in the act of conveying away a thirty-two pound shot. The fellow had secreted it in a little mat basket, which was fastened round his loins, and was in the act of jumping overboard with it, (never to rise more) when he was stopped by the first lieutenant. Two attempts to effect a landing were made, but unsuccessfully, owing to the violence of the surf, and the dangerous nature of the rocks. The first native who had swam on board, accompanied them in the boat; but as they could not reach the shore, he was compelled to jump overboard, as the ship was going to sea. The poor fellow was very loath to do so, as he well knew that he would be stripped of his presents, as soon as he was surrounded by his companions; and indeed, no sooner was he in the water than he was attacked, and each of the plunderers made off with his spoils, as fast as he could swim.

Respecting the general appearance of the island, no trees or shrubs of any kind were seen; and it would appear that wood is a scarce article, for the canoes were wretched things, about ten or twelve feet long, and rather more than a foot wide, constructed apparently with drift-wood, and the pieces sewn together so badly,

that it is the work of one person to keep baling the water out. The plantations of the natives, appeared to consist of fields of yams, or sweet potatoes, and plantains; and the outline of the hills gives them the appearance of a volcanic origin. The natives were seen in great numbers near the shore, and they surrounded the ship, some of them not venturing on board. Many used two bundles of rushes, on which they rested the chest and arms, so using only the legs in swimming.

We understand that Captain Biscoe intends publishing an account of his voyage, as soon as he can prepare it for the press.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The anniversary meeting of this society was held at its apartments, in Somerset House, on Friday the 15th ult.—The chair was taken by the President, Roderick Impey Murchison, Esq., at one o'clock, and after the Secretaries and Treasurer had read the annual reports of the Council, on the State of the Society, and the accounts for the past year, the Fellows proceeded to ballot for the Officers and Council for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected:—President, George Bellas Greenough, Esq.; Vice Presidents, W. J. Broderip, Esq., Henry Thomas de la Beche, Esq., William Henry Fitton, M.D., and Rev. Professor Sedgwick; Secretaries, Edward Turner, M.D., and William John Hamilton, Esq.; Foreign Secretary, Charles Lyell, Esq.; Treasurer, John Taylor, Esq.; Council, George Aylmer, Esq., Rev. Dr. Buckland, Francis Chantrey, Esq., Rev. W. D. Conybeare, Viscount Cole, M.P., Charles Daubeny, M.D., Sir Philip Egerton, Bart., Earl Fitzwilliam, Davies Gilbert, Esq., R. J. Murchison, Esq., Capt. J. Pringle, R.E., W. Somerville, M.D., Henry Warburton, Esq., M.P., and Rev. James Yates. In the evening, the Fellows and their friends, to the amount of 105, dined at the Crown and Anchor, and the Ex-President, Roderick Impey Murchison, Esq., afterwards delivered his anniversary address, on the Progress of Geology during the past year.

Feb. 27.—George Bellas Greenough, Esq., in the chair.—The following candidates for admission were elected Fellows, William H. Booth, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, and Mr. Channing Pearce. Four communications were read:—1. A memoir on parts of the kingdom of Valencia, Murcia, and Granada, in the South of Spain, by Capt. Cooke, R.N., F.G.S.—2. A memoir on the remains of Mammalia, in the coal of Schœneck, in the circle of Gratz, Styria, by Professor Anker—3. Observations relative to the structure and origin of the diamond, by Sir David Brewster, K.C.H., F.G.S.—4. An extract of a letter from James Burton, Jun., Esq., to G. B. Greenough, Esq., relative to the shells found at Erzeit, and other places, along the coast of the Red Sea.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 26.—Richard Owen, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. Gould exhibited a specimen of the Carolina cuckoo (*Cuculus Americanus*, Linn.), which was killed during the autumn of 1832, on the estate of the Earl of Cawdor, in Carmarthen-shire. Mr. Gould referred also to an account published in the *Field Naturalist's Magazine*, of a species of cuckoo, unnamed, which was shot in the autumn of 1825, in the county of Cork, and which appears to be the second specimen killed in Ireland. From the description, these birds appear to belong to this species. This cuckoo inhabits the thick woods of Carolina during the summer months, and is said to be common in Jamaica.

Dr. Grant made some remarks on the Loliopsis, of Lamarck, and Leachia, of Lesueur, and illustrated his observations by reference to a preparation and sketches.

† See report of the last meeting of the Society, in the *Athenæum*.

Specimens of a small sized seal, from New Holland, belonging to the genus *Arctocephalus* of F. Cuvier, were exhibited; and Mr. Bennett pointed out certain peculiarities of the dentition, by comparison with the crania of other species on the table.

Mr. Yarrell read a further portion of his paper 'On the Laws which appear to govern the Assumption and Change of Colour in the Plumage of Birds.'

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Mr. Faraday on the Prevention of the Dry Rot.

Mr. Faraday used the term dry rot in a general sense, expressive of the rapid decay to which woods, cloth, &c. are sometimes subject; and not confining himself to the dry rot of the botanists.

Various methods have been proposed for checking or preventing the decay of timber; but the process now brought forward, is the invention of Mr. Kyan, who has taken out a patent for it. He proposes, that previously to using the timber, it should be steeped in a saturated solution of corrosive sublimate. Mr. Faraday exhibited specimens or results of several comparative trials which had been made, by exposing prepared and unprepared timber and cloth to circumstances which usually cause decay. The great preservative power of the means used was abundantly evident.

It must, however, be remembered, that corrosive sublimate is slightly volatile at common temperatures; whether the small quantity that may remain free in the timber or other substances, to which it is applied, will be found so deleterious as to counterbalance the advantages, is doubtful, and remains yet to be practically investigated.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Jan. 8.—The first meeting of the session took place in the new rooms of the Institution, Cannon Row, Westminster. The President, Thomas Telford, Esq., in the chair.—The following presents were received: A Plan of the river Thames, between Chelsea and Blackwall, from Mr. Sibley; a Treatise on Fire Engines and Firemen, from Mr. Braidwood; Tables of the cubic quantities of Earth-work, in cuttings and embankments, with various bases and slopes, by Mr. Macneill; a description of Hall's Improvements on the Steam Engine; fragments of petrification, from the wreck of the Hindostan, East Indiaman, lost on the Margate Sands, called the Wedge. Mr. Sibley's paper, descriptive of a Cast Iron Wharf, recently constructed at Limehouse, was read, and a detailed drawing laid on the table for further illustration. Instead of timber or iron in constructing this wharf, heavy cast iron piles, twenty feet long, were driven at intervals of nine feet, and the intermediate spaces filled up with cast iron plates or panels, one inch thick, which were dropped into grooves, cast on the sides of the piles for that purpose; this framework was then firmly secured by land ties, composed of wrought iron rods, and backed by a strong wall of concrete lime and gravel, six feet in thickness; it has every appearance of durability; and an intimate chemical union having taken place between the lime and iron plates, the danger which would arise from water getting between the concrete wall and framework, is entirely obviated. To prove the strong adhesion between iron and lime, in every situation where water is present, so as to afford oxidation, instances were adduced by different members, of water-pipes and gas-pipes, where the iron was so thoroughly combined with its covering of lime and gravel, that the line of separation between them could not be traced.

Some account was communicated, of the means adopted for defending the banks, on each side of the sea entrance to the Norwich and

Lowestoffe Navigation. Experience having shown that timber exposed to sea water, was quickly destroyed by the worm which infests that part of the coast, piles of cast iron were resorted to; a row of these has accordingly been driven into the sand and shingle about seventeen feet, and some to nearly twenty feet under low water; the piles are close together, and to resist the pressure of the bank from behind, they are driven with a considerable batter or slope, and likewise secured by land ties. To protect timber work, and particularly piles, from the worm in salt water, it has been the practice on the east coast, to stud them over with scupper nails; this remedy is an effectual one, but it is also expensive, three pounds weight of these nails being required to cover one superficial foot.

Jan. 15.—This evening was occupied with the election of office bearers for the present session.

Jan. 22.—The President in the chair.—Mr. Rennie's and Mr. Walker's Report, addressed to the Commissioners of the river Wear, on the formation of Wet Docks at Sunderland, was presented and read.

The subject brought forward for discussion, being, 'The improvements lately made in the form and construction of boilers, for stationary, locomotive, and marine engines; the principle and performance of Mr. Perkins' boiler, (which has been recently used on the Manchester and Liverpool Railway,) were fully explained; also those of Mr. Brunton and Mr. Gurney. Communications were made, of various modes for preventing or removing earthy deposits, in stationary and other boilers.

Mr. William Cubitt, Mr. James Braidwood, Mr. Howell, Mr. Borthwick, Mr. J. S. Tucker, were elected Associates, and Mr. G. H. Palmer a Member of the Institution.

Jan. 29.—The President in the chair.—The deposition which takes place in steam boilers, was resumed, and some observations made on its varying nature, according as it is derived from river water, spring water, or from rivers during the times of flood.

Mr. Casebourne's paper was read, 'On the effects produced on the bed of the river Ouse, by the Eau Brink Cut; a map and section of this important work, accompanied the paper. The Eau Brink Cut was formed for the purpose of improving the drainage of the Middle and South Bedford Level Fens, by avoiding the circuitous route of the river Ouse, between St. Germans and Lynn, which was of unnecessary width and filled with shifting sands. Although this work was proposed nearly a century ago, it was not carried into execution until 1818. In 1821, the New Cut was opened, and a dam placed across the old river Ouse diverted the waters into the new channel. In 1828, the advantages were very apparent in the increased drainage, the tides ebbing out four or five feet lower; and the bed of the river Ouse had been scoured out in some places fifteen feet deeper, as far as Denver Sluice, ten miles above the New Cut, and thirteen above Lynn. It was calculated, that more than two and a half millions of cubic yards of silt and earthy particles, have been removed by the ebb tide; a large portion of which has been carried back by the flood tide, and deposited in the old river bed.

By rendering available this singular property of ebbing and flowing waters, the Eau Brink Commissioners, besides an improved drainage, have recovered from the sea an extent of more than 300 acres of land, and as much more will probably be obtained in the course of a few years.

A memoir on Suspension Bridges was presented by the author, Mr. C. S. Drewry; also a

report and plan, relative to the formation of an Asylum Harbour and Naval Station, at Redcar, on the south side of the Tees Bay, on the Yorkshire coast, by Mr. W. A. Brooks.

Mr. Joseph Maudslay and Mr. Charles Collinge, were admitted as Members, and Mr. Bourns and Mr. Lynde, as Associates.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MONDAY.	{ Ethnological Society Eight, P.M.
	{ Medical Society Eight, P.M.
	{ Linnean Society Eight, P.M.
TUESDAY.	{ Horticultural Society One, P.M.
	{ Institution of Civil Engineers Eight, P.M.
WEDNES.	{ Royal Society of Literature Three, P.M.
	{ Society of Arts part 7, P.M.
	{ Royal Society part 8, P.M.
THURSDAY	{ Society of Antiquaries Eight, P.M.
	{ Zoological Society Three, P.M.
FRIDAY.	{ Royal Institution part 8, P.M.
	{ Astronomical Society Eight, P.M.
SATURDAY.	Westminster Medical Society Eight, P.M.

PROFESSOR JONES'S INTRODUCTORY LECTURE ON POLITICAL ECONOMY.

ON Wednesday last, Mr. Jones gave his introductory lecture, as Professor of Political Economy, at King's College. The lecture was delivered extempore, and we can only give an imperfect sketch of its substance. The first part gave an outline of the state of opinions on the subject of public wealth, from the Conquest to the present time. The professor dwelt particularly on a system, which he called the balance of *bar-gain* system, to distinguish it from the balance of *trade* system, which started up, he said, many centuries later. This early system prevailed till the reign of Henry VII., full of vigorous enactments and ferocious penalties, and manacled, as far as possible, every transaction in trade. From Henry VIII. to Charles II., men doubted and disputed, whether they should restore the ancient system, (of which many provisions had become, in their old form, impracticable,) or adopt another; at length, under Charles II., the balance of *trade* system got possession of the public mind and public measures; it did not reign for a century, but its relics still exist, for a contest is still kept up about the public measures founded on them. The professor stated, that the intense interest so long directed towards foreign trade, as the sole source of public wealth, had long kept wholly out of sight, and still kept partially out of sight, those parts of the subject which most closely connected a knowledge of "the laws which regulate the production and distribution of wealth," with other branches of human knowledge, and with all the objects of an enlightened and comprehensive education; with the past history of nations, their relative position and resources, and future prospects. He then gave a sketch of the circumstances which determine, what he called "the economical structure" of different nations, and showed how those circumstances arise from the nature of man, combined with the construction of the world. He pointed out how the position of different classes, cultivators, artisans, landholders, &c., are determined in different communities by the "economical structure" of each; and how essential it is to understand this, while we are marking the past progress or actual condition of the various nations of the earth. The professor then adverted to the subjects of finance and population, as connected with the economical structure of nations. He dwelt much upon the importance of the elevation and comforts of the bulk of a nation; to its financial resources, as well as political strength; and pointed out the different parts sustained by different classes of a nation, in contributing to its public revenue, while its economical position was changing. On the subject of population, Mr. Jones, after declaring that it might be his future task to offer corrections to some of Mr. Malthus's views, paid a tribute of warm acknow-

ledgment to the scientific character and literary labours of that gentleman, and adverted in strong terms to the really benevolent spirit which marked Mr. Malthus's writings, to the eyes of all who steadily contemplated their real aim and principles. After stating that political economy contemplated the nations of the earth, and classes in nations, as they are affected by the yet unexpended influence of events which have occurred during past ages; and that such views are sometimes distasteful to young people, who think it easy to make everywhere an age of their own; the professor claimed for political economy, properly understood, the power of revealing at once, distinctly and safely, the capacity and power of the mass of the population of nations to advance and acquire a full share in the knowledge, comforts, and political rights, which are too often seen to be peculiar to small portions of a people.

The lecture concluded by the assertion of the rights and duties of a teacher of political economy, while he avoided the politics of the day, fearlessly to lay before his auditors such views of the causes, which affect the happiness of their own and other countries, as may best assist the members of a free state to perform manfully, decidedly, and wisely, all the duties they may owe, in their particular stations, to their country or their fellow men.

The lecture was delivered with great distinctness, both in language and voice. We remarked amongst the distinguished persons present, the Bishop of Llandaff, Lord Clive, Sir Robert Inglis, Mr. Divett, Sir J. W. Herschel, Sir A. Cooper, Dr. Fitton, Professors Whewell, Green, Lyell, Hawkins, Burnet, &c., Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Babbage, &c.

Cambridge Philosophical Society.—A meeting was held on Monday evening, Professor Sedgwick, the president, in the chair. The Rev. W. Whewell read a continuation of his Memoranda on the Architecture of Normandy. After the meeting Professor Airy gave an account, illustrated by models and diagrams, of his recent researches concerning the mass of Jupiter, by means of observations of the fourth satellite. It was observed, that the proportion of the quantity of matter of Jupiter to that of the Sun is the most important datum in our reasonings concerning the Solar System, after the elements of the planetary orbits. But though this is the case, considerable uncertainty has recently prevailed concerning this quantity. The calculation of Laplace and Bouvard made Jupiter 1-1070th of the Sun, by means of the perturbations of Saturn; but the German astronomers Nicolai and Encke by means of the perturbations of Juno and Vesta, obtained a mass larger by about 1-80th than that of Laplace. But in the meantime the observations which seemed to promise the most simple and decisive means of obtaining the value of Jupiter's mass, those of the periods and distances of his satellites had never been put in practice since the time of Newton, at whose request Pound made such observations. The question concerning this mass is not only of consequence in the calculations of other perturbations of the solar system, of which Jupiter is "the tyrant" (to use Sir John Herschel's expression), but was also of sufficient magnitude to decide the existence or not, of a resisting medium as deduced from Encke's comet. Professor Airy determined therefore to repeat these observations, and to endeavour to calculate from them the mass of Jupiter, with greater certainty and accuracy than had hitherto been obtained. In his statement on Monday evening, he described the various adjustments which he found it necessary carefully to make, in order to ensure the requisite degree of accuracy in the observations; and the difficulty and embarrassment

which occurred in consequence of considerable errors which exist both in the signs and in the numerical values of Laplace's theory of the satellites of Jupiter. Finally, all these difficulties were overcome; and the result is, that the mass of Jupiter is most probably 1-1050th of the Sun, 1-1054th (Nicolai's determination) being much less probable, and 1-1070th (Laplace's) very improbable.—*Cambridge Chronicle.*

Horticultural Society, Berlin.—Among the various communications read on the 6th of January and 3rd ult., the most interesting were a letter from M. Pfuhl, of Hamm, on his success in 'Producing a blue colour in the flowers of the Hortensia,' by the use of the powdered charcoal of the beech, on one occasion, and, on another, by moistening the roots with water, which had lain some days on the same charcoal;—a memoir from Professor Goppert, of Breslau, 'On the ancient horticulture of Silesia,' in which he relates, that the proprietor of the first botanical garden established in Silesia, (Lawrence Scholz,) had cultivated the potato in his garden at Breslau, as early as the year 1590, and had forwarded specimens to Caspar Bauhin, the celebrated botanist at Basle, who first described the plant under the name of *Solanum Tuberosum* in his 'Phytovindex,' which appeared in 1596;—an account of the separate establishment of the 'Horticultural Society in Hanover,' which had hitherto been attached to the Society of Natural History in that city; and a communication from the Horticultural Society in Brunswick, on several new kinds of vegetables, amongst which a new sort of "black brocoli," lately brought from Sicily, is particularly recommended. At the meeting on the 3rd ult., M. Link read a paper by Voss, the king's gardener at Sans-Souci, 'On the mischievous effects of storms on the vegetation of the mushroom,' the growth of which he had remarked to be instantly arrested by them; and to Voss's experience, M. Ludloff, the director of the Society, added, that he had observed the occurrence of equally detrimental effects to buckwheat, when in blossom; the thunder and lightning having blasted the blossom and prevented the setting of the grain.

Archæological Academy, Rome.—The third meeting for the season was on the 24th January, when the Cavaliere P. E. Visconti read a very interesting paper, on 'An inscription of Christian origin extant in the Kircherian Museum,' in the course of which the author earnestly recommended a diligent study of such memorials. That, of which his paper treated, is injured in its lower part; it refers to one Alexander, an imperial slave, who had purchased the sepulture for himself and his son, during his life-time. The last-mentioned of these persons was attached to what were called the Vestitori, and resided in the Roman street, *Caput Africa*; a street which must have been situated between the well-known *Meta Sudans*, and the site of the Church of the *SS. quattro Coronati*. Visconti conjectures, that the inscription is of the times of the two Philips. Cardinals Zurla and Sala, as well as the Portuguese Ambassador, the Marquis de Lavradio, were present at the meeting.

MUSIC

KING'S THEATRE.

'La Donna del Lago,' was revived on Tuesday, in which a Signora Schinetti sustained the character of *Malcolm*. She has a flexible mezzo-soprano, of a pleasing quality, sings in tune, is young, and has a moderate share of beauty. Her talent can scarcely be said to be matured; and it would be injustice to compare her with Pisanoni, in the same part; the latter had the

advantage in voice, as the music of *Malcolm* is written for a powerful contralto. The debutante will prove an acquisition, in good second parts, if she could be prevailed upon to undertake them. Madame de Meric, as *Ellena*, acquitted herself well; but in *Roderic*, we never heard anything finer than Donzelli's first address; and we unhesitatingly assert, that he has greatly improved since last season! Of Signor Arigotti, all we can say is, that having a flexible tenor voice of good natural compass, he might make a better use of it. The choruses were far from perfection.

FIRST PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

THERE was little novelty in the selection. The four grand orchestral pieces, were Mozart's Sinfonia in E flat; Haydn's No. 9, in D; Weber's Overture to 'Oberon,' and Vogel's to 'Demophoon.' A Concerto by Spohr, for the clarinet, was played by Willman, whose tone and taste, particularly in the slow movement, were marked by well deserved applause; there were difficulties in this concerto, which seemed to baffle the skill of the performer, else, the effect of the composition was much to our liking. Beethoven's Quintetto in C, was played by Mori, Watts, Seymour, Moralt and Lindley; Mori, in passages of brilliancy and mechanical difficulty, is generally successful, but in the lovely phrases in a major, which occur in the last allegro of this descriptive composition, his want of expression and feeling was but too evident; we have known Baillot move an audience to tears, in playing these few affecting notes. Mrs. Wood, Phillips and Donzelli, were the vocalists. 'Pria che spunti,' 'Lascia amor,' and the duetto 'Come frenar,' were sung in their best style; an aria in four flats, six-eight time, from Spohr's opera 'Der Alchymist,' was an agreeable novelty, though its effect was somewhat tame.

THEATRICALS

DRURY LANE.

AFTER advertising 'Don Juan' for the first Friday in Lent, and having the performance prohibited by the Bishop of London, the management of this theatre gave another specimen of bad taste, by announcing a performance to consist partly of the old system of Oratorio and partly of a ballet!!! from sacred history. This second attempt has been put down by "Royal Command;" and it is said, that the interdiction was sent in consequence of His Majesty himself seeing the announcement in the newspaper, together with the offensive allusion to the Bishop of London, upon which it was our duty to remark last week. There will, now, be no entertainment at this house on the Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. 'Don Juan' and 'The Sleeping Beauty' continue to be given on the acting nights, and they are said to attract full audiences.

It appears by the bills of this house, that, in consequence of more people entering by the old doors than the Pit will hold, an extra door has been opened. Quære, who is intended to go in at it?

COVENT GARDEN.

Yesterday week introduced us for the first time in this country to a dramatized Oratorio. The experiment was completely, and, to our thinking, deservedly successful. Considerable curiosity was afloat beforehand, as to the probable effect which such a novelty might have upon an audience; in this curiosity we freely partook, and not, it must be confessed, without some mixture of apprehension, lest the sublime should dwindle into the ridiculous. Our fears however were agreeably and effectually removed—great care and attention had evidently been bestowed upon the undertaking. The parts

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were well cast, and effectively sustained, the choruses were given with a rare degree of precision, and the scenery was admirably managed.

Mrs. Wood, Mr. H. Phillips, and Mr. Seguin, are severally entitled to the highest praise for the manner in which they acquitted themselves, and all others concerned did their best to contribute to the general effect. We should have preferred more of Handel and less of Rossini, and there were some few trifling defects which we could mention; but such was the prevailing excellence of the whole, and so great an improvement do we consider this performance over the incongruous mess, the unmeaning mixture of sacredness and profanity, which was called an Oratorio used to be, that we are not only unwilling to do so, but feel that we should be wanting in justice if we did not offer Mr. Rophino Lacy our best thanks for the pleasing change he has effected. Managed as it is here, we can see no possible objection to this method of illustrating Sacred History. We admit that the task was a difficult one, and that great caution was necessary;—but the caution has been used, and the difficulties have been surmounted. The applause here and there throughout, and at the conclusion, was loud and general, and there can be little doubt of good houses.

We are sorry to see fourteen or fifteen lines in the bills devoted to a rignarole puff of a performance, which is in itself too good to be so disgraced.

MISCELLANEA

A highly-finished model of the buildings around the site of the National Gallery has been for some time past in progress, for the purpose of being submitted to the authorities, and it is so contrived as to admit of placing the buildings for the National Gallery in any position. (See the Plan, p. 136.)

Monument to Sir Walter Scott.—We have just seen in the *Revista Española*, the first list of the Spanish subscribers to this monument; the total amount subscribed, is but 26*l.*; but the compliment to the memory of our illustrious countryman is the same. We observe in the same paper, a review of a Spanish historical novel, entitled '*El Conde de Candespina*,' which is highly praised; as also of a new comedy by Martínez de la Rosa, one of the first living poets of Spain; it is called '*Los Zelos Enfundados*.'

Literary Piracy.—We have just seen No. 246 of a Spanish journal, published at New York, under the title of '*Mercurio de Nueva York*,' one half of which consists of translations from the *Athenæum*, without acknowledgment. Among other articles, are the account of the 'Deposing of Ferdinand in 1823,' and the review of the fourth volume of '*The History of Spain and Portugal*.' The editor would have the public believe, that he has extracted the account of the Deposing, from the unpublished work, entitled '*Spain, in 1829 and 1830*;' and of the review he only observes, that it is taken from one of the best English journals. We are of course flattered by this compliment, but must still express a wish, that the editor would name the Journal whence the articles are taken. Literary piracy is now carried to an extent scarcely credible; we have seen seven folio columns of a provincial paper, copied from the *Athenæum*. We cannot protect ourselves from it in America, and have, therefore, the stronger claim on the honour of the American journalist.

The *Giant Flower* was discovered in the year 1818 by Dr. Arnold, the naturalist, who accompanied Sir Stamford Raffles in one of his journeys into the interior of Sumatra. The natives call it Ambun Ambun, or Krubôt, i.e. the *great flower*; and it is in truth a vegetable Titan. The specimen first found by the lamented Arnold measured

a full yard across; the petals being twelve inches long and a foot apart from each other; the necessary, adds the Doctor (in an unfinished letter to a friend, which was published posthumously), would, in the opinion of us all, hold twelve pints; and the weight of this prodigy we calculated to be fifteen pounds.—*Professor Burnett's Lecture.*

Prosecution.—Dupin, in his celebrated defence of Beranger, illustrated his argument by the following anecdote:—"In 1775, some satirical couplets had been published against the Chancellor Maupeou. Piqued to the quick, he thundered against the author, and threatened him with his resentment if he was discovered. To shelter himself from ministerial anger, the rhymist withdrew into England, and from thence wrote to M. de Maupeou, sending him at the same time a new copy of verses:—

"My Lord, I have never wished for more than 3000 francs a year; my first song, which displeased you so much, has gained me—simply, because it displeased you—a capital of 30,000 francs, which, placed out at five per cent. makes half of my sum. Pray show the same resentment against the new satire I send you; this will complete the revenue to which I aspire, and I promise you I will write no more."—*From a clever Paper on Dupin's Speeches, in the Law Magazine.*

Gipsies in Scotland.—According to an act of James VI., "All vagabonds, called Egyptians," are banished the kingdom, "not to return under the pain of death." In 1624, this law was enforced, and eight men suffered death at Edinburgh.—*Waverley Anecdotes.*

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL

Days of Week.	Thermom. Max. Min.	Barometer. Noon.	Winds.	Weather.
Th. 21	50 39	29.50	N.	Rain, a.m.
Fr. 22	48 33	29.75	N.E.	Cloudy.
Sat. 23	49 33	Stat.	N.E.	Ditto.
Sun. 24	42 35	29.40	S.E.	Rain.
Mon. 25	50 37	29.30	S.	Clear.
Tues. 26	50 37	28.98	S.W.	Rain.
Wed. 27	52 32	28.78	S.E.	Ditto.

Prevailing Clouds.—Cirrostratus, Cumulus, Cumulostratus, Nimbus.

Mean temperature of the week, 40° 3'. Greatest variation, 17°.

Nights fair, except on Saturday and Tuesday. Mornings fair, except Friday, Sunday, and Wednesday.

Day increased on Wednesday, 2h. 50 min.

NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE AND ART.

Memoirs of the Life and Correspondence of the Rev. William Lavers, by I. S. Elliott.
The Life and Travels of the Apostle Paul, illustrated by a Map.

Bibliotheca Classica, by Dr. Dymock.
A Series of Illustrations to Prynne's Journal of a Voyage from Calcutta to Van Diemen's Land.

The Tropical Agriculturist, by G. R. Porter, Esq.
Capt. Head's Overland Journey from India.

Excursions in the Holy Land, Egypt, Nubia, and Haouran, with Rambles through the Provinces of the Turkish Empire, including a Journey across the Desert to Cosseir, by J. Madox.

Constance, or, Life as It Is, by Mrs. Thomson.

Just published.—Valpy's Shakespeare, Vol. 5, 5*s.*—Edgeworth's Novels, Vol. 11, 5*s.*—The Cabinet Annual Register, 1832, 8*s.*—Introduction to the Study of English Botany, 9*s.*—Cornwall Geological Society's Transactions, Vol. 4, 8*s.*—Digest of the Evidence before the Secret Committee of 1832 on the Bank of England, 14*s.*—The Modern Cynon, 2 vols. post 8vo. 12*s.*—The Sacred and Historical Book of Ceylon, 3 vols. 8vo. 2*l.* 2*s.*—Aims and Ends, 3 vols. 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*—Sherwood's Victorine, 12mo. 4*s.*—Blunt's Paul, Part 1, 5*s.* 6*d.*—Commentaries on the History, Constitution, and Chartered Franchises of the City of London, 1*l.*—Outline of Political Economy, 5*s.*—A Manual of the Baronetage, 8vo. 10*s.* 6*d.*—Aldine Poets, Vol. 25, Dryden, Vol. 5, 5*s.*—Roscoe's Novelist's Library, Vol. 14, 6*s.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS

Thanks to D. W.—C.—J. A., of New York.—E. M.—T. M.

We thank our Bath correspondent, E. S., but the time is past.

To A. V.—We cannot enter upon such minute questions.

Erratum.—The name of *Nostradamus* was accidentally misprint in the verses inserted last week.

ADVERTISEMENTS

STRAND THEATRE.

NIGHTS OF PERFORMING, MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS.

Under the Patronage of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire.

MISS KELLY will have the Honour of presenting to her Patrons, the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public, an Entertainment entitled—

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Doors open at Seven—commence at Half-past.

* * * The Public are respectfully informed that Money is taken at the Doors.

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